

THE GATEWAY

volume XCIII number 12 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 9 october, 2003

Controversy emerges over DeBeers lab

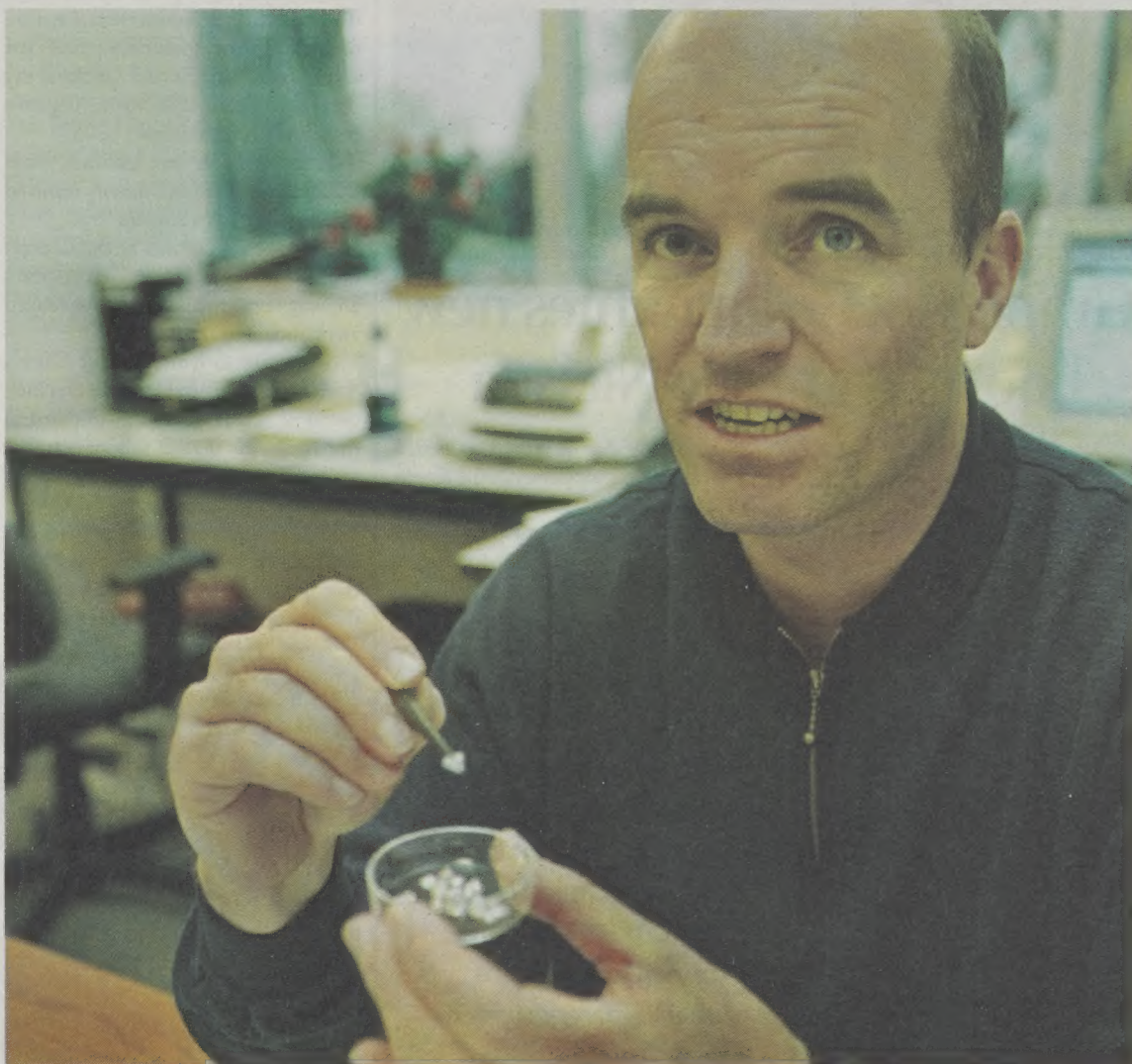
CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

Amidst an ethical controversy, the University of Alberta Board of Governors has voted this year to name a state-of-the-art diamond research lab after diamond-mining giant DeBeers.

The lab will facilitate the work of U of A geologist Thomas Stachel, recipient of a Canada Research Chair in diamonds.

Last spring, Vice-President (External) Susan Green proposed that the lab be named after its sponsor, following the faculty of science's attainment of a \$100 000 gift from DeBeers. The proposal was met with considerable controversy, as DeBeers' has been accused of unethical practices since the early 1990s, and has been linked to conflict or "blood" diamonds by a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Conflict diamonds are those which have been mined in areas of armed conflict, in which diamond producers like DeBeers have allegedly indirectly supported those perpetuating conflict or human rights abuses.

PLEASE SEE DEBEERS • PAGE 3



SHAWN BENBOW

PRECIOUSSS... Geologist Thomas Stachel, whose work will be facilitated by the U of A's new DeBeers diamond lab.

Two Alberta SUs accept tobacco company deal

Concerts in Calgary and Lethbridge sponsored

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

The students' unions at the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge were embroiled in controversy last week for accepting sponsorship deals from Rothmans tobacco company.

Although both students' unions had previously signed contracts with Rothmans to sell Benson & Hedges cigarettes on campus, they only recently decided to enter into sponsorship deals with the company in order to have big-name musicians play on campus.

"We visited the deal and revised it and tried to get it out of the way so we'd never have to deal with this again. This sort of thing isn't something anyone wants to be tied in to."

JAYNA GILCHRIST,
U OF C SU PRESIDENT

In Lethbridge's case, the deal included cigarette girls selling Rothmans products at the non-smoking campus bar the concert was held at, as well as a live-feed camera with a small Benson & Hedges logo displayed at the bottom of the screen in the bar.

The funding from this deal allowed the Students' Union to bring in singer David Usher, something Students' Union President Paul Daniels said they wouldn't have been able to afford to do otherwise.

"[This deal] was brought to us as a way for a smaller SU to bring in a larger artist for the students," explained Daniels.

"The only reason why we even broke even on this concert was because we were able to sell tickets for \$10 and it sold out."

The U of C was in a similar position, according to Students' Union President Jayna Gilchrist. However, they terminated their sponsorship deal with Rothmans at the end of September.

"We visited the deal and revised it and tried to get it out of the way so we'd never have to deal with this again," she said. "This sort of thing isn't something anyone wants to be tied in to."

PLEASE SEE SPONSORSHIP • PAGE 2

Study to look at preventative merits of natural cold remedy

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

The common cold could soon be prevented if studies being conducted by the U of A and Capital Health prove successful.

Cold-fX, a natural health product produced by CV Technologies of Edmonton, is currently being tested through a joint study in common cold prevention.

The product, a ginseng extract, is currently on the market as a cold treatment but head researchers Dr Tapan Basu of the U of A and Dr Gerry Predy of Capital Health are optimistic of its preventative potential.

"We know from previous studies that this product has shown some promise in terms of preventing and treating viral infections," said Predy.

"What we are hoping to see with this study is, in the real world, where people are living in the community and being exposed to viruses every day, does the product have any ability to prevent viral respiratory infection?"

Basu says the development of Cold-fX was an important step for many reasons. First, the cost of treating the common cold on healthcare systems is extremely high. In the United States, the common cold costs Americans \$40 billion per year once labour losses and healthcare costs have been calculated. Canadian statistics

were not available.

Secondly, Cold-fX is pure ginseng, and therefore a natural product. Such products are often viewed with skepticism by academics, physicians, and the public because of their unreliability and the lack of scientific research available.

Basu believes that successful studies

of Cold-fX will help give confidence to the skeptical parties. A proponent of natural health products, Basu states that natural medicines have a history of being extremely successful. The problem with the current market is the lack of proof and reliability of the products' validity, he said.

"The challenge is to identify if there is any health potential [in natural medicine], and I think there is because of all the testimony of evidence that has been accumulated over hundreds of years. You cannot ignore that," said Basu.

PLEASE SEE COLD-FX • PAGE 3



SHAWN BENBOW

CURE FOR THE COMMON COLD? Nope, just a possible preventative, says U of A researcher Tapan Basu.

7 Ladies swoon over him. Men scoff at his sexy ways. But no more. Jagdeep Dhadli is starting his teaching career next week. For a summary of his many exploits, check out Opinion.

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Outside

Thursday Sunny, we are Wyld Stallions; High 17, Low 8
Friday Sun and cloud, Carlin's afoot at the Circle K; High 17, Low 3
Saturday Cloud and sun, most triumphant times with Frood and Noah's wife; High 15, Low 0
Sunday Sun and cloud, be excellent to each other; High 15, Low -1
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Second-year University of Alberta student Gillian Moody became Miss Black America this month in 1984. Moody triumphed over 13 other contestants in the bathing suit and evening gown competitions to advance to the semi-finals where she won the talent competition and eventually the crown. Moody hoped that the publicity would open people's eyes to racial issues in Edmonton. At the time of printing, Moody was pushing for a scholarship to be made part of the prize offered with the Miss Black America title.

1984

Brussel sprouts!

There will be no Gateway next Tuesday, as we will be "giving thanks" in celebration of some holiday the man has dubbed "Thanksgiving." What are you thankful for? We're thankful for: the colour black, Google, puppies, 'nads, piranhas, treehouses, sleep, Marty Reasoner, ponies, and newspapers. And yes, in that order.



15 Oh, Canada!

The Bears and three other CIS teams take on four NCAA teams in the annual Husky Energy Can-Am Challenge, beginning tonight in the Main Gym.

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 9 october, 2003
volume XCIII number 12

Published since 21 November, 1910
Circulation 10 000
ISSN 0845-356X

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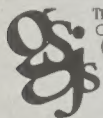
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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GJSJ), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.



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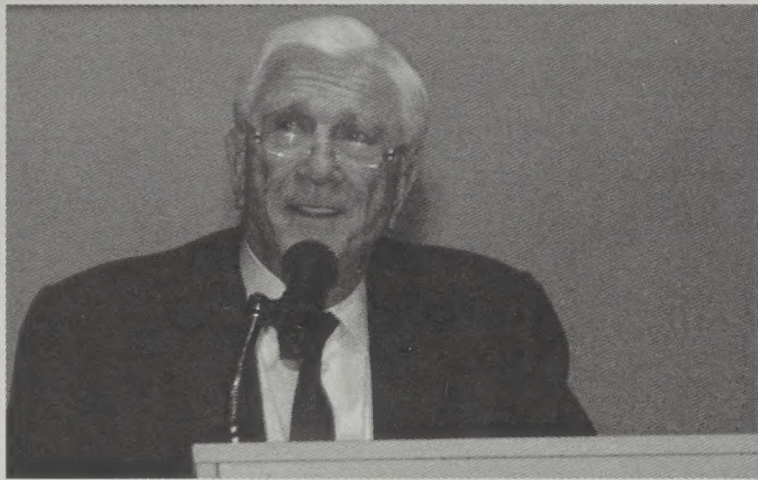
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colophon

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard Scanjet 3c and Umax Astra 600s flatbed scanners, and a Canon Canoscan FS4000VS optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Fenice, Kepler, Joanna, and Aroma. The GATEWAY's games of choice are EVO, and The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past.

contributors

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JOELLE TOMEK / COURTESY OF THE INTERCAMP

SURELY YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS Actor Leslie Nielsen at Grant MacEwan.

Grant MacEwan names new school after Leslie Nielsen

MICHAEL SHANDRO
News Writer

Famous actor and native Edmontonian Leslie Nielsen recently returned home to attend the opening of Grant MacEwan College's new school of communications, named in his honour.

The Leslie Nielsen School of Communications, opened on 30 September, is housed at Grant MacEwan's west-end Centre for the Arts. It hosts approximately 600 students in four different programs—digital arts and media, bachelor of applied communications in professional writing, visual communication design, and journalism.

Nielsen, who played the legendary Lieutenant Frank Drebin in the classic *Naked Gun* series and recently starred in *Scary Movie 3*, was unable to be reached for comment. However, he called the tribute a "great, great honour" in a Grant MacEwan press release. "Edmonton is the city where I grew up," he said. "This dedication acknowledges something I have always felt—that Edmonton is truly my home."

Nielsen was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and was raised in Edmonton where he attended McKay Avenue School and Victoria High School. Since then he has acted in over 100 movies and made approximately 1500 television appearances.

Matthew Glass, Vice-President Academic of the Grant MacEwan Students' Association, thinks naming the new school after Nielsen was a good choice. "There was some controversy at the school because of his comic background, but that's just what gets seen in the media," he said. "The

main thing is that he is well-trained, a great actor, and supporter of the arts in all respects."

"Most of the students are pretty supportive of it," he added. "He's a great Canadian. He's a champion of arts. He's best known for his comic abilities, but he's classically trained and he has a wonderful repertoire to draw from."

"Most of the students are pretty supportive of it. He's a great Canadian. He's a champion of the arts. ... he's classically trained and he has a wonderful repertoire to draw from."

MATTHEW GLASS,
GRANT MACEWAN SA
VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Donald McMann, director of the school of communications, is excited about the different opportunities the school will offer students. "One of the things that makes our program strong is that we can have interdisciplinary studies," he explained. "Designers can work with photographers and journalism students can work with editors."

McMann added that locating the school of communications on the college's new west-end campus was necessary because "the downtown campus was at 110 per cent of its capacity and there simply wasn't room to grow. [The Centre for the Arts] is really a cool campus with lots of different kinds of students."

SU Presidents say students haven't 'vocalized any concern'

SPONSORSHIP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although both the *Calgary Herald* and the *Edmonton Journal* ran articles dealing with the controversial nature of the Rothmans sponsorship deals last week, both Daniels and Gilchrist say they have heard little to no negative response from students.

"The media is just curious," said Gilchrist. "But so far, I've only received one e-mail from a student."

"Everyone who was at the concert enjoyed it," said Daniels. "To this point anyway, no students have vocalized any concern to me."

According to University of Alberta Students' Union President Mat Brechtel, the U of A was offered a similar deal during the 2000-2001 school year, but turned it down. "It's reassuring for me to realize that," he said.

"I can't speak on behalf of Students' Council or even the Executive, but in my opinion it's very unfortunate these students' unions accepted that

money. In my mind there will always be an easy source of money and a difficult source of money, and sometimes you have to look for a difficult source of money to support your ethics. We're not always going to accept the easy source of money just to fill our coffers."

"In my mind there will always be an easy source of money and a difficult source of money, and sometimes you have to look for a difficult source of money to support your ethics."

MAT BRECHTEL,
SU PRESIDENT



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: SHAWN BENBOW

The students' unions at U of C and U of L accepted tobacco sponsorship deals.

STREETERS

Austrian actor Arnold Schwarzenegger has likely won the election for the next governor of California.

What do you think about actors getting involved in politics?



Oliver Kiatschat
Engineer II



Saman Adir
Science II



Robbie Stanger
Business III



Sheliza Ladha
Business II

I think the race was a gong show. I guess there was a porn star running, an actor, and a bunch of other weird people. I don't think Arnold has the proper qualifications, but it might actually be a good thing. Maybe somebody lacking a political background might actually have some different ideas.

It depends on the person. If he has knowledge about the country, the people, society in general, and politics then it is fine, but if not, then he should be educated as well, at least a degree.

I think it's a good idea if they are qualified and I am sure that someone like Arnold would hire good consultants and everything like that. It's a good idea. The pressure is even greater on them to do a good job than on normal politicians because they've been in the limelight the whole time. They have to know that they will do a good job or else they will get crapped on.

I am not quite sure. I am not very in tune with the whole Arnold Schwarzenegger thing. I do find that because they've gained so much fame as actors that they try to become more influential through the government. In a way it is not fair to those who haven't had that fame and prior position to make a name for themselves.

Compiled and photographed by Caitlin Crawshaw and Cosanna Preston

Clinical trial will have 500 participants

COLD-FX • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The problem is we don't have any idea what most of the natural health products are. Echinacea doesn't mean much because, how do you know it is Echinacea? How do you know whether it is coming from the stem or the root or the flower? And the concentrations of the active components vary. We need to standardize these products. Then we will determine the effective dose levels, toxicities, and so on. Once we have that it is used on the label, the product becomes reliable, and the results will be consistent."

"Hopefully we are setting an example for the whole industry and giving the public confidence to use the product and other natural-based products."

**DR JACQUELINE SHAN,
PRESIDENT, CV TECHNOLOGIES**

To ensure that the study is unbiased and reliable it will involve 500 participants, half of who will be taking Cold-fx.

The other half of the participants will be taking a placebo. As the study is double blind, neither the participants or the researchers will know who is taking what until after the test period is complete at the end of the cold season in either April or May. After the initial test period Basu estimates it will take another five months to analyze the collected data. Only then will the preventative potential be confirmed or denied.

Dr Jacqueline Shan, president of CV Technologies and co-inventor of Cold-fx is confident in the design of the study and eagerly awaits the results. She hopes that Cold-fx will be only the first in a series of natural health products that have the confidence of the general public.

"This clinical trial is a good example to show how we are using modern medicine research and applying it to natural health products," said Shan. "Hopefully we are setting an example for the whole industry and giving the public confidence to use the product and other natural-based products."

University and SU researched DeBeers' past before naming lab

DEBEERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Former SU president Mike Hudema, who was at the forefront of the dis-sension, requested that the University of Alberta research the matter before making a decision. Because of this, the issue was not voted upon last May, but was delayed until this September.

According to Green, donations go through a thorough process to determine whether donations are ethical to accept, as well as which donations warrant the naming of a facility after a donor.

"We ensure that donors operate within the laws of the province, the laws of the country, and the international community. And in our opinion, backed up by our research, that was the case for DeBeers," Green said.

Currently, a donation may warrant the naming of a facility after a donor if the gift accounts for at least 30 to 70 per cent of the private sector costs of building a facility. Green states that the DeBeers donation fell within these parameters.

Green is also confident that DeBeers has changed its practices over time, and that the research commissioned by the University proves that DeBeers' practices are ethical.

According to Brad Wuetherick, who conducted the research for the University's Board of Governors, in spite of the company's history, things have changed.

When the issue came into the public eye in the '90s, the "Kimberley Process" emerged from the efforts of NGOs, industry, and government. The process, which has been ratified by the UN, requires diamond producers to track the origins of their diamonds in order to ensure the companies are attaining their gems ethically.

Wuetherick thinks that the real problem lies within the diamond polishing and cutting sector, in which children and slave labour are often used.

"It's that middle step where there are still a lot of problems with the industry, which DeBeers and others are going to have to help to fix just as much as the non-profit [organizations] are going to have to work to fix," said Wuetherick.

He added that these findings came as a surprise to him.

"It actually was reaffirming in that people who are really involved in trying to push forward social change can actually see results in a short amount of time, comparatively to the

size of the problem," he said.

But Students' Union executive policy and information officer Shannon Phillips, who conducted research on the issue for the SU, takes a much different stance.

Phillips argued that her research indicates that DeBeers' human rights abuses continue.

"Our argument was that certainly these things were not in the past, even if the blood diamond issue was resolved in a satisfactory manner, which the US congress, even last year about this time, was not satisfied that this had been the case. If it was, our position was that there were other problematic things about doing business with this company," said Phillips.

"I'm happy that we have the money, I'm sad that we had to get it from that source."

**MAT BRECHTEL,
SU PRESIDENT**

"I think that anyone who knows how to use the internet would have come to very similar conclusions. If you do a search on DeBeers, all you pick up is non-governmental organizations who have a problem with this company," she explained.

SU President Mat Brechtel, however, had a mixed reaction.

"I would have rather that we were never in the position that we had to support a company that's had such a poor past," he admitted.

"I'm happy that we have the money; I'm sad that we had to get it from that source."

Stachel admits that the controversy surrounding the lab has been a shock to him.

"I don't think DeBeers is in any respect a particularly bad company, in their records. And they have played a very good role in sponsoring research for a very long time," Stachel argued.

"They are a capitalist company, and they are certainly not nice guys. But I wouldn't expect that from Shell or any other company either. They are as nice as they are forced to be. The non-governmental organizations create a lot of pressure, so a lot of these mining companies have had a fairly good record over the last ten years, because they know they are watched."

In order to present a unified front, Amrhein stated that it is necessary for Council to accept maximum tuition increases for the next two years to prove to the government that it's their turn to contribute money to postsecondary education, as students will be giving as much as they can.

After many questions, Amrhein assured students the administration would do "the best they can" to lobby the government for more money, no matter what Council decided in the end. This proposal will be debated further in future Council meetings.

SEPARATION OF POWERS MOTION DEFEATED

After over an hour and a half of debate, the motion made by Councilors Smith and Bazin to separate the executive branch of the SU (the Exec) from the legislative branch (Council) was defeated 13/25/1.

COUNCILOR'S SHORTS SCRUTINIZED

An unnamed councilor wanted us to mock Steve Smith's "horrible Boy Scout shorts." But obviously, we're above that.

A Non-Partisan Political Discussion for Women

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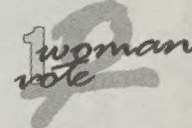


ONE TO ONE

WOMEN IN CONVERSATION WITH WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE

November 13, 2003
7 pm - 10 pm

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Scholars

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COUNCIL FORUM LITE

Compiled by Chris Boutet and Kristine Owram

In this exciting episode of Council Forum, it took council an astonishing three hours to get through two whole items on the agenda. We've reported on those two agenda items here today, but despite the legendary diligence of the Gateway's reporting staff, Chris and Kristine just couldn't justify staying any longer. Sorry, everybody.

Also, Chris had a hockey game at 10pm, and he needed to "mentally prepare," by which of course he meant "buy a cheap cigar and smoke it." Kristine, meanwhile, probably went to bed.

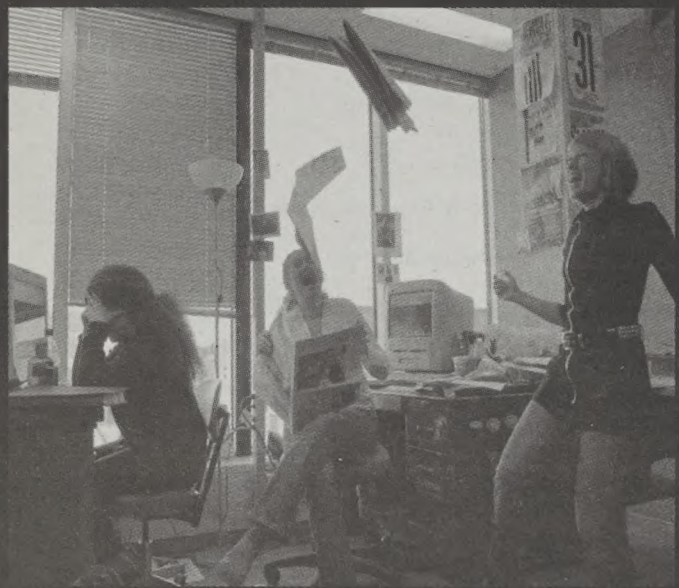
Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21 October.

ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES UNIFIED FRONT IN FUNDING BATTLE

This week, Council opened with a presentation from University Provost Carl "Kristine's new dad" Amrhein and Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark. After Clark presented a series of graphs showing the dire financial situation the University is in, including the drastic increases in energy costs and decreases in government funding they have faced over the past several years, Amrhein made an unprecedented proposition to Council.

According to Amrhein and Clark, the two major sources of funding for the University are tuition and government grants. Tuition was increased as much as it legally could be last year, and no significant funding from the government is in sight, they said. Amrhein told Council he believes the only way possible to convince the government to give more funding to postsecondary education is to present them with a unified front from the administration, the Students' Union, and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA).

The joy of newspapers



GATEWAY NEWS

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Kristine O'ram

PROF SUES SFU

VANCOUVER (CUP)—A university professor is suing Simon Fraser University, its president and senior administrators, claiming the president told officials to avoid hiring him to a tenured job "like the plague."

David Noble, a history professor at York University in Toronto, filed a statement of claim with the BC Supreme Court Friday, alleging his academic freedom was violated in a botched and biased appointment process.

The claim says university officials "conspired and combined together" to deny Noble from assuming the JS Woodsworth Chair of the Humanities.

Court documents show that on 23 January 2001, SFU President Michael Stevenson wrote in an e-mail to the dean of applied sciences, "I touched base with [dean of arts] John Pierce this afternoon. I would be glad to discuss this in detail, but I'd avoid this appointment like the plague."

The e-mail was sent before the departmental committee had finished its independent hiring process. The committee usually submits its findings along with reference letters to the president's office for final approval.

The court case was launched shortly after a report by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) concluded that Stevenson's e-mail and other remarks by senior administrators showed SFU failed to adhere to its own policies on appointment processes.

The report says the university may have unfairly considered Noble's critical views of the corporatization of universities as an important factor in the hiring process.

Warren Gill, SFU Vice-President of uni-

versity relations, rejected the report's allegations on the grounds that CAUT's position is "inconsistent with university autonomy and quality hiring practices."

Jonathan Woodward, Ubysey

CHE'S KIN IN OTTAWA

OTTAWA (CUP)—The practice of solidarity among people all over the world can redeem humanity, according to the daughter of famous revolutionary Che Guevara.

Speaking at Carleton University 1 October, Che's daughter, Dr Aleida Guevara March, a working doctor on the tiny communist island of Cuba, didn't talk about her famous father. Instead she spoke in support of five Cuban men jailed in the US for conspiracy to commit espionage and conspiracy to commit murder.

Dr Guevara was merely the media hook for the political seminar at Carleton to raise awareness for the five men, dubbed The Cuban Five. Their supporters say the men were gathering information and infiltrating groups in Miami that were plotting to terrorize Cuba. The US feels much differently and has jailed the men for sentences ranging from 15 years to life in prison.

Few in the crowd knew of The Cuban Five, and by the number of hands raised when Dr Guevara asked, most had attended to see the daughter of the famous revolutionary speak.

Dr Guevara, a hefty, tough-looking woman, didn't disappoint and thrilled the 300-person crowd with her words.

"I am very honoured to be the daughter of Che," she said, through a Spanish interpreter. "The Cuban revolution has given much to many people in the world."

Dr Guevara rhymed off a list of the suffering she saw in the world. She said there are 800 million hungry people and 11 million children die every year from diseases easily cured. "For me, all these facts are a sign of real terrorism," she said to an applauding crowd. "And as Che himself said, we will dream dreams and we will be realistic, because these dreams will become reality."

Adam Grachnik, Ottawa Bureau

TASK FORCE CALLS FOR STUDENT BANKRUPTCY REFORM

OTTAWA (CUP)—An Industry Canada task force is urging the federal government to make drastic changes to current student loan bankruptcy provisions.

Saul Schwartz, a member of the task force and a professor at Carleton University, said the time a student must wait to declare bankruptcy should be cut in half.

"The task force came to an agreement that the provision should be loosened for student payments. Former students should only wait for five years, not ten," said Schwartz, who teaches at the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton.

To be excused for payment of a student loan under current provisions, a period of ten years must elapse from the last full- or part-time course taken, regardless of a graduate's financial situation. Schwartz also said former students should get a mercy hearing after one year to have their cases considered for exemption.

Student loan debts are the only type of loan that cannot be extinguished by filing for bankruptcy. Historically, student loans were not treated differently than any other form of debt. In 1997, however, legislation was created which implemented a two-year waiting period for former students to file for bankruptcy and absolve themselves of any outstanding loans. In April of 1998 this was changed to a ten-year waiting period.

Schwartz blames the decision to increase the waiting period to ten years on a false notion of recent graduates trying to take advantage of bankruptcy legislation. "There remains a widespread perception of middle-class kids trying to get rid of debt, and then in six months, making lots of money. There's a perception that they're abusing the system but there is no evidence of that. I did a survey in 1997 that showed this wasn't the case. In fact, the people who were suffering from student debt were worse off than the people with regular debt," said Schwartz.

Dorotea Gucciardo, The Fulcrum

McGill puts brakes on file sharing

JULIEN VERNET
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—McGill University has taken extreme measures to cut the flow of file-sharing traffic on campus, as record industry associations step up efforts to battle copyright infringement.

In early September, McGill installed a firewall that allows it to restrict bandwidth on the section of the university's network used by students in residence, many of whom use file-sharing programs such as KaZaA and iMesh.

Anthony Masi, deputy provost and chief information officer, said the move was intended to ensure high-volume file-sharing traffic did not dampen network speed or access for other uses.

"It is a bandwidth issue," Masi said. "If there is activity going on which interferes with legitimate uses of the network, then we will slow down."

In April, the Canadian Record Industry Association (CRIA) launched the "Value for Music" campaign, aimed at educating people on the ethical wrongs of sharing copyrighted music and the potential legal consequences. CRIA President Brian Robertson said his group would consider legal proceedings if the information campaign proves to be ineffective.

"We want to see if education is helpful. And if we determine that it's only modestly helpful or not helpful at all then we will have to look at what our options are," he said.

Robertson said his group received complaints from universities that were displeased with file-sharing's domination of network bandwidth. CRIA

recently contacted universities across Canada in the "spirit of cooperation," asking them to examine their policies and network setup.

"We sent out a letter to literally every university in the country advising them on the concerns and the problems and that they might want to look at their own internal broadband systems," said Robertson.

"I'm not suggesting there's a legal threat to the institution themselves, but if they've got students who fall into this high volume of uploading, it could be a bit embarrassing."

BRIAN ROBERTSON,
PRESIDENT, CANADIAN RECORD
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

While Masi stressed the university's firm belief in intellectual property laws, he denied that the university should play any active role in punishing student downloaders.

"We want to respect the integrity of copyright legislation and we don't want to encourage illicit behaviour across our wires," he said, adding he is not "going to be a policeman."

"Nor should [McGill] get involved in policing these activities or treating our students differently from individuals in the community at large," he continued.

Masi said the university would have a responsibility to address illegal file-sharing if there was evidence that it was particularly prevalent on the network.

"If it's truly the industry and the individual artists or their representatives going after individuals and they can demonstrate that the traffic emanates from our campus, then we would have an obligation to pursue this," he said.

According to Masi, McGill's computing code of conduct, which all students and staff must respect, protects McGill from legal liability. Masi said his office will be monitoring the situation and will update the policy if needed.

"We think it's important to be on top of this and we're constantly tweaking our policy, because students are coming in not only better prepared but also cleverer about how to do things," he said.

Robertson stressed that legal action would not be directed at universities but offered reason for concern nonetheless. "I'm not suggesting there's a legal threat to the institutions themselves, but if they've got students who fall into this high volume of uploading, it could be a bit embarrassing."

Matthew Brown, a student living in residence, said the new firewall had sharply reduced the download speed of songs he got from KaZaA, a widely used file-sharing application.

"It doesn't really work, they don't download," Brown said.

Brown said he plans to join a pay site, which offers MP3s for roughly 70 cents, as soon as he gets a credit card.



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Decide for yourself what's fact

ISRAEL ASPER, CANADIAN MEDIA MOGUL whose CanWest empire has sparked much debate as the the merits of media centralization, died Tuesday at the ripe old age of 71. He was well known to media-savvy Canadians who believed that a monopoly on Canadian media outlets would stifle certain discourses, and while CanWest's competitors, Bell Globemedia and the CBC, certainly gave and continue to give CanWest a run for its money, the Asper-owned empire continues to thrive and has spread its influence into Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland.

CanWest caused a great deal of controversy in the summer of 2002, when *Ottawa Citizen* publisher Russell Mills was fired for running a negative feature on Jean Chrétien without running the article past CanWest executives first. This raised the ire of journalists and readers alike, and though the controversy has since faded, the concerns of censorship in centralized media remain. And rightfully so.

CanWest owns 13 major daily newspapers in Canada, including the *Edmonton Journal* and 48 daily and weekly newspapers in smaller communities. While news and specific events, obviously, differ from community to community, CanWest recently developed a policy whereby its newspapers were required to publish a centralized editorial in each newspaper. This policy, after much outcry, was knocked down to a centralized editorial three times a week. Now, however, it happens much less frequently than that.

Why, in the wake of Asper's death, am I even bringing this up? Simple: because this is an issue that has cropped up before. Having a monopoly on media outlets like CanWest gives one organization, or one board of directors, too much power. It allows one organization to dictate what is news to all Canadians. And while, in theory, newspapers and TV stations aren't supposed to present a biased slant toward the news, the termination of Russell Mills for a feature that painted our Liberal Prime Minister in a negative light proves there's indeed a bias in the way CanWest provides Canadians with information. But this sort of bias isn't limited only to CanWest; Bell Globemedia owns the *Globe and Mail*, CTV, and dozens of affiliated, locally-run television stations all over the country.

This means that Canadians must be all the more diligent when it comes to accepting what they see in newspapers and on television as unbiased truth. This also means that small-time media sources, like for example, the *Vue Weekly* and *CJSR*, are now more important than ever. Independent media provide a unique perspective on the same issues you might read about in the *Edmonton Journal*. Not only that, but the independents don't have to concern themselves with adhering or bending to the wishes of a corporation like CanWest Global; they can say what they want without fear of reprisal from Big Brother.

Israel Asper's passing, though tragic, reminds us that we must not allow newspapers to form our opinions for us. Before you form your opinions, try and get all sides of the story.

To the Asper family: our sincerest condolences. To the rest of you: stay diligent and don't let anyone tell you what and how to think.

ADAM ROZENHART
Managing Editor

Hockey season haikus

Here we go again:
Hockey nights in smoky bars,
I miss my boyfriend.

Last year I tried hard,
But I really couldn't care.
I'm sorry, you guys.

No conversation,
We're staring at the TV.
Oilers lose again.

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

LETTERS

Women-only space will set the feminist movement back

This letter is in response to Gateway's article "Safe spaces for women to open in SUB" (30 September).

I cannot begin to express my utter disgust with not only the Student's Union and the University of Alberta for allowing such blatant discrimination to exist on campus, but I am also appalled at the people who support such a space. It's a great idea to finally make available an area on the fourth floor of SUB where women and transgender people can come together and discuss issues that they may face in society. But it's not a great idea to discriminate against who can and cannot use this space.

I am a woman who has benefited from and appreciated the feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s. I think it's great that women can drive, vote, and work outside of the home. And yes, inequalities still do exist in society, but not allowing men in an area that could potentially serve to increase awareness of feminist issues is ridiculous.

How are barriers of inequality supposed to fall if men are being excluded from such "pink tea sessions" and tampon discussions? How is society supposed to change its views on gender differences and perceive women as an equal to men if men (who make up half of society) are not able to participate in such educational sessions and have an opportunity to understand such oppressions and issues that women may face?

I am in a faculty in which is mostly made up of females, but I enjoy interacting with the very few men that do exist in my classes. I think it's great that they have equal opportunities to be a nurses and I think they provide different perspectives; I would never wish to exclude males entering a female-dominated faculty. I could only imagine the uproar that would occur if a male interest group tried to discriminate against who could enter their space.

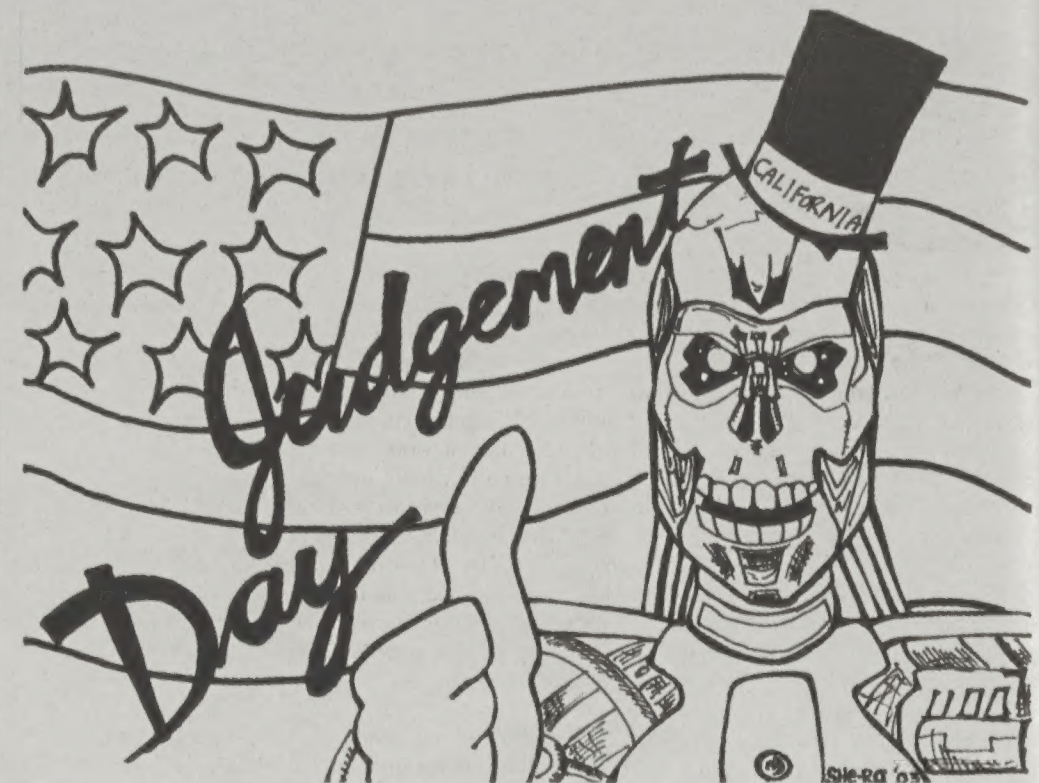
I can't believe that I pay fees to the Students' Union, an organization that is run by the students for all students, only to have my hard-earned money go to such a hypocritical cause. But these women can gather around, hand out "Friends don't let friends use tampons" bumper stickers and discuss how unjust this male-dominated world is. All the power to you, girls!

ROBIN ROO
Nursing III

Excluding males is the first step to equality

In regards to the women-only space in SUB, let us take a moment to thank the administration for finally providing the students with this type of space on campus. It has been a long time coming.

The proliferation of men-only spaces on campus has become disturbing. They are everywhere. While I cannot reveal where they are or what goes on within them, due to



club leadership's disagreement with my neo-feminist ideals and their threat to revoke my "old boys club" membership, I can give you a hint to their whereabouts. To find the numerous men-only clubs on campus, look for the small pictures of the male figure situated at about eye level on many doors in the dark, secret corners of all campus buildings.

The gender inequality on the campus is also appalling. I cannot count the number of times I have arrived on campus hoping that one day women would be allowed to attend classes, vote in SU elections, write for the *Gateway* or volunteer at CJSR. Where are the opportunities?

Never fear ladies! A club that excludes males is the first step towards gender equality. "Equality through inequality" is what I always say, and thankfully, administration is listening.

BRYAN M BIRTLES
Political Science I

Women-only space holds woman back

It was quite a shock when a friend of mine started reading me the article, "Safe spaces for women to open in SUB" in the 30 September issue of the *Gateway*. I was blown away by the fact that on a university campus, the last place in the world you'd expect to see intentional discrimination, this new women-only space has been constructed.

The article seemed to imply that women need to be protected from men, as if all men are predators. Most of the men I spoke to about this new women-only space said that they were insulted to be portrayed in this manner. I was certainly surprised to find out that many of my friends were being excluded based on their sex. Our society is making such huge efforts to create equality for women that the rights of men are being forgotten. The term equality implies that everyone is equal, not that women should be treated better than men.

I am personally insulted by the fact that anyone could think that women can't function in the world alongside men. I don't understand why anyone feels they need to separate themselves from the opposite sex. We can never expect to be

equals in society as long as we intentionally separate women and men. This women-only space makes me believe that it is not the men of are society that prevent women from reaching their full potential, but women that hold themselves back.

I currently belong to a faculty dominated by men. Women are definitely in the minority in any engineering class, and yet girls that choose this faculty are not made to feel out of place. I no longer even notice if I am the only female in one of my classes. This is true equality: when you no longer even realize that you should feel out of place.

HEATHER ELLINGSEN
Civil Engineering II

Hanasyk: check out the religious variety

Sarah Hanasyk's blaming her church's poor entertainment value and close-mindedness for driving her away is a sad commentary by a near-agnostic on institutionalized Christianity's failure ("Church is boring, so I guess I'm going to hell," 2 October).

The first response of many well-meaning Christians might be to argue against a description of the Church based on her singular experience. We could direct her towards a gay-marriage-supporting Lutheran church, a rocking Vineyard flavour, my own evangelical Anglican brand, or a Christian club on campus. There are many 21st century "Christian" options that would be more palatable to her post-modern tastes. But is this the solution?

I'm not that unlike Hanasyk. I share her disillusionment with the Church. Where I diverge from Hanasyk's opinion is in the nature of the Church's failure. It does not stem from its being unable to adapt to our changing culture, as she charges. Diachronically, it is clear the Church does adapt to culture, it just lags a couple decades behind. And this is the problem: the church is too much like the mainstream. Rather than viewing Hanasyk's column as a failure of her church, might it be seen as a stinging indictment of the corporate Church—a community that as a whole has failed to provide a salient alternative to what the world has to offer?

What if Hanasyk's church experi-

ence included a community where riches made you poor; the first were last; losers won; victory came to those who turned the other cheek; where the poor in spirit, the meek, and the hungry were the most fortunate; where we loved each other more than ourselves? What if the Christian community was at the very least struggling to live out such an upside-down existence, truly transformed by the radical belief that Christ rose from the dead and will come again? Would such a Church bore Ms Hanasyk? I think not! She views Christianity as a sub-culture, not a counterculture. If salt loses its saltiness, can it be made salty again? To Ms Hanasyk I say: there remains a paradox: the church, meant to be an expression of Christ in the world, is utterly human.

RON THOMSON
Grad Studies II

Pedestrians need to learn road rules, too

This letter is in response to Chris André's article "Albertans need to improve their driving 'skills,'" 2 October. Before I begin, let me say that I don't own a vehicle and I walk to the university every day.

It wasn't that long ago that a pedestrian was killed, and now two more injured in a marked crosswalk on Whyte Avenue and 106 street. I use this crosswalk and know exactly how hard it is to get to the other side of the street. According to section 41(1) of the Traffic Safety Act, "[vehicles] shall yield the right of way to [pedestrians] in a crosswalk." In addition to this, a similar section, 94(1), pertains to pedestrians that states "when a pedestrian intends to cross a street... indicate the intention... by... pointing to the opposite curb in the direction the pedestrian wishes to walk."

Now this seems reasonably simple to do, but there is one flaw: if the pedestrian raises his/her arm, and the vehicles do not stop as indicated in 94(3), the pedestrian cannot safely cross the intersection. This leaves the pedestrian one option: start walking into the crosswalk and hope that he/she does not get clipped by a Dodge Super Bee. I have signaled my intent to cross only to end up waiting on the curb for an entire minute before vehicles begin to stop.

PLEASE SEE MORE LETTERS • PAGE 7

So long, ladies, and thanks for all the lonely memories



JAGDEEP DHADLI

Well, dear friends, bowing under the pressure of the Catholic League and Girl Guides Against Defamation, this will be my last article for this fine paper. I'm off next week to begin my ill-chosen career as a high school teacher and fulfill my lifelong goal to score with a cheerleader.

I wasn't sure how to approach this rather superfluous and inauspicious occasion. I always figured I would drive this paper into the ground before I left. How do you succinctly and humourously sum up a two-year volunteer writing career made up entirely of masturbation references and *Star Wars* jokes? What's the point of the farewell, anyway? I mean after all: is anything people in my field (ie entertaining drunk frat boys) do really worth remembering? The answer, of course, is yes, because I am the most important artist that has ever lived.

But that's neither here nor there, because even though society benefits from my expounding on lemon gin's integral role in lovemaking and extensive knowledge of Terry Kiser movies (he was brilliant as the corpse in *Weekend At Bernie's*), that was never my intent when I started the mental excreting that became my writing gig. No, quite simply, I did it so I'd have something to impress girls with. If that strikes you as particularly scumbaggy, you should be aware that most guys who do pretty much anything do it to impress girls.

Hockey players, rap moguls, captains of industry, sensitive and brooding actors—these men couldn't have anonymous sex with twin trapeze models in the bathroom of a nightclub if they were quality control supervisors at a Colgate factory. And neither can I. Now with all due respect, writing for a Canadian university paper is not quite the same as adorning the *Rolling Stone* cover and getting *Punk'd* by Ashton Kutcher. But as far as Edmonton is concerned, you're doing something that closely resembles what some people might consider, at least marginally, "cool." It gives a cat an edge in the competitive, cut-throat world of trying to get with a drunken chick. And when you look like Jon Lovitz back from a shopping spree at Old Navy, you take any edge you can get.

Now the question on every man, woman, and child's mind is: did it

"Hockey players, rap moguls, captains of industry, sensitive and brooding actors—these men couldn't have anonymous sex with twin trapeze models in the bathroom of a nightclub if they were quality control supervisors at a Colgate factory."

work? The answer, of course, is a resounding no. I was recognized from time to time, but it was always by inebriated dudes at RATT who wanted to arm-wrestle "the pansy from the Gateway." The larger question, however, is why didn't it work? Scholars are still debating (for more information on my lack of newspaper-writing-related one night stands, make sure to enroll in Comp Lit 127: a history of lovelorn, porn-addicted, shut-in nerds for engineers). I guess conventional thinking may be that you shouldn't "use" anything to try and woo the opposite sex. Thankfully, I'm not that much like my writing persona. I should try and impress girls on my own merits, on being "real Jag," not the "Kevin Smith/Dennis Miller rip-off Jag" guise I hock to the U of A masses. Or maybe I'll just try and make a shitload of money, and then it won't matter what I'm like. Yeah, actually, I think I'll do that.

Now, you're probably asking yourself, "is he serious? Did he really only write so girls would notice him?" The answer is, of course, kind of. It would have been nice to have a cutie, who

hopefully also loved punk rock and guys who have no money and live with their parents, come up and say "hey, you clever-writing bastard, let's go dance and eat cotton candy!" But really, I wrote to amuse myself and hopefully a few of you readers out there. If some of you got a chuckle or guffaw out of my salacious musings, then I consider it a successful romp through the bottom rung of student journalism.

Thanks for reading—it was a blast. Thanks to all the cool cats at the Gateway—you guys make me wanna shoop. Thanks to my libido for being an uncasing source of comedy, and extra special thanks to our lord Jesus Christ...whoa, I bet I scared a few of you out there with that one.

Well, I'm off—keep your wits about you and dream when you're awake, lovers; it was just this side of groovy writing for you.

I have to go jerk off and watch the *Empire Strikes Back* now, but not necessarily in that order.

RIP Jag Dhadli—overrated writer, 23 January 2001–9 October 2003

Anything larger than that and you make me, my computer, and my pants all very, very sad.

Into the sack with you word usurpers. I've had enough of your shenanigans

"MADMAN" ROZENHART

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

THE BURLAP SACK

This delightful romp in the scratchy sack is going out to all you letter writers—you heard me—who've been having trouble reading our submission guidelines. 350 words, kids, is what we're looking for in the way of letters.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Reasons you got beat up

- 10 Tried to defend common-law wife's honour using everything you learned watching pro-wrestling.
- 9 Got caught walking alone at night past the Punch Buggy dealership.
- 8 Pimps like punching more than bartering.
- 7 Wouldn't stop singing really falsetto rendition of Pat Benatar's "Hit Me With Your Best Shot."
- 6 Didn't know Fat Tony was so sensitive about his weight problem.
- 5 You fought the law and the law won... and the law had nightsticks.
- 4 Contestant on new reality show called *Prank an Old Boxer*.
- 3 New cellmate doesn't respond well to, "I know you are but what am I."
- 2 Who's *The Boss*? rerun erroneously inspired you to stand up to the school bully.
- 1 You're a centaur-like creature that's half redheaded stepchild and half rented mule.

MORE LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
Now, once the first vehicle stops, it may appear to be safe to cross, but there is always a vehicle in the next lane oblivious to the fact that there are big, white lines on the road, with a person standing on them. These big, white lines are often accompanied by yellow flashing lights. Section 41(2) basically says that a vehicle shall not pass another vehicle stopped at a crosswalk.

It may seem that I am badmouthing Edmonton drivers, but the pedestrians are just as bad. Pedestrians need to learn how to cross a street. When at a traffic-controlled intersection, pedestrians shall not begin crossing until a walk symbol appears. Once the wait light begins flashing, no pedestrian shall enter the crosswalk. Any pedestrians in the crosswalk shall get to the other side

as quickly as possible. If a pedestrian can't wait the twenty seconds, they often run across when the wait light is flashing or solid. When this happens, vehicles stuck in the intersection on a yellow light end up turning on the red light.

The way to solve this lack of cooperation between drivers and pedestrians would be for the Edmonton Police Service to undertake more "sting" operations to catch drivers that do not yield to pedestrians. If need be, they may have to install pedestrian crossing cameras to catch these drivers. The apparent lack of popularity of red light cameras shows that this may not be the solution. A more appropriate solution could be the education of not only drivers, but of pedestrians also.

Don't kids these days watch *Sesame*

Street anymore? Oh yeah, I forgot—it went down the tubes with parental responsibility.

DEAN SEREDA
ENCS II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

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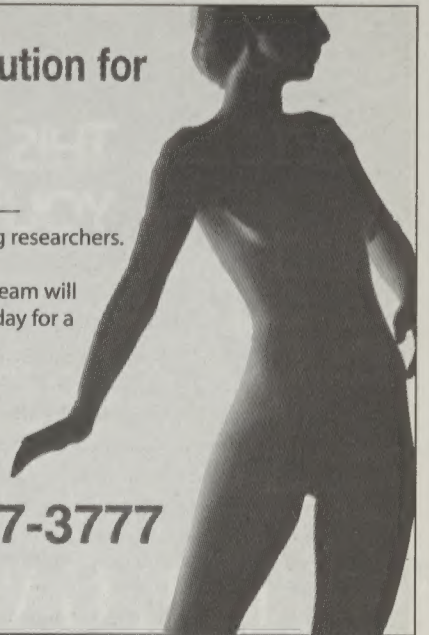
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THE GATEWAY

Writing all up in this bitch since 1910

Scabs too shallow to fight the good fight



STEVE LILLEBUEN

How much does it cost to buy a soul? At A-Channel, it seems the price has been set pretty high.

If you've been wondering why A-Channel has been running a lot of re-runs of *Wired* lately, or has been broadcasting newscasts with lots of dead air, it's because the station has been on strike since 19 September. How can a station keep running if the staff is on strike? Thank your local scabs, ready to cross the picket line past their colleagues day after day.

I worked as an audio mixer at A-Channel a few years ago. I was straight out of high school and wanted to get involved in television. A-Channel was kind enough to let me work on the *Big Breakfast*, and because of my previous experience with a mixer board, I was allowed to fill in for their regular audio mixer.

It was a dream come true. They offered me ten dollars an hour for my time. Used to \$6.50 at the grocery store, I never complained. Yet I did find it strange that the guy I was filling in for—who had a degree in music, produced his own albums, and had worked there for three years—made \$10 per hour as well.

After a bit of asking around, I discovered that the majority of A-Channel staff didn't make a lot of money. The station was new and wanted to cut costs to become

competitive in the tight Edmonton market.

Now, six years after startup, it seems management still considers Edmonton a tight market. Wages for A-Channel staff are still significantly lower than other local stations like CFRN and Global. Their union put forth an offer to raise wages by 12 per cent over three years. They also wanted a guarantee that jobs wouldn't be moved to Calgary, where there isn't any union representation. Management turned down the final offer.

My problem isn't with the station rejecting their offer. I understand their business reasoning, whether or not it's ethical. What I can't understand is how anyone could cross a picket line and become a scab.

And then I looked at who has crossed—Paul Mennier, Jennifer Martin, Mark Schultz, Dawn Chubai, Julie Nolan—these are their key players who, unlike their operational staff, make good wages. Although their salaries are held more secret than bin Laden's whereabouts, word of mouth has pinpointed their annual income near or above six figures.

It shocks me that some A-Channel staff would become scabs because some of them had personally professed to me their love of supporting local bands, sponsoring community events

and being "independent." I suppose their reasoning is that supporting the community doesn't include the local union. If they disagreed with the union, couldn't they have taken a convenient vacation until the strike was over? By staying, they threaten the livelihood of a lot of staff.

I used to defend A-Channel when my friends made fun of their error-filled newscasts. Because of this strike, I despise the station. When you see those on-air personalities professing to you how much they care, don't believe it. They're on the air while their co-workers picket on the street for more reasonable wages.

There are many excuses to pay people less, and even more to pay the central figures more. But whatever happened to supporting your colleagues? Is there a price on camaraderie, an amount that is so enticing that you'll forget years' worth of working together?

Because I've written this article, I'll likely never be allowed to work in TV again. My name will be black-listed because I've made a mockery of management. It doesn't matter; I don't want to work in TV, so I can write this article in confidence for the staff that is picketing downtown. These guys deserve some support. At the very least we should support their cause and change the channel.

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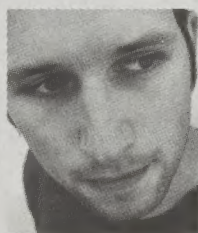
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Groupthink spawned women-only space



AARON BRAATEN

centres ought to be concerned with under-represented groups on campus, and women are not one of them. If our campus is to be ahead of the game, we need a Men's Centre and a Men's Studies program to address the decline of the role of males in society, analyzed outside of the feminist hive-mind paradigm.

shared stereotypes that guide decision-making and protection of the group from reality through the use of mind-guarding doublethink. Doublethink is an Orwellian term that refers to the ability to subscribe to two conflicting realities and validate both as true.

Campus feminists have pointed to the generalized existence of men-only spaces in society and the existence of women-only centres on other Canadian campuses as reasons for the space. The underlying logic is that patriarch Mat Brechtel's opposition reinforces feminist-interpreted reality and validates their victimhood, and that Dean of Students Bill Connor has allowed the female majority to adopt transgressors, giving them net minority status and men are allowed, but they must identify as male feminists.

The women-only space creates a safe space for women and transgressors to discuss issues that affect them. But what is this space keeping them safe from, exactly? Assuming any criticism of such a space is attributable to the patriarchy's pathological hatred for all things feminine dehumanizes those of us who have honest questions and assumes a superior morality. If the purpose of this space is to have books on feminist issues and discuss alternative menstrual products, is this not a duplication of other campus services such as a library or the Student Health Centre?

One solution to groupthink is to reassess this proposal vis-à-vis a "re-meeting" where other alternate courses of action would be considered, experts from a variety of sides consulted, and the funding situation changed so that those of us who do not wish to fund this initiative do not have to.

Feminism has switched its "equals" sign for a "greater than" one, and where reality differs from theory, campus feminists are conforming reality to theory rather than the other way around.

This gender gap should concern women. Theoretically, women ought to have no trouble being the breadwinners of their future households, but in practice, most tend to prefer a man of equal or greater social/career status than themselves. If trends continue, 50 per cent of females will not find similarly educated males to meet these preferences and will have to "marry down" into the pool of eligible but disengaged males.

The establishment of a women-only centre on campus is a faulty policy caused by groupthink. Possible outcomes of these decisions include the ruling out of alternatives or the exclusion of expert opinion. Symptoms of groupthink include an unquestioned belief in the group's morality,

In the feminist ontology, society is male-dominated and this power differential causes double-standards, stereotypes, and a disdain for femininity. The patriarchy reinforces ideas and practices benefiting men at the expense of women. Feminists, then, hope to liberate women from this patriarchy by shifting the gender-bias in society to gain equality.

This feminist equation is difficult to reconcile with the reality of Canadian campuses. Feminism has switched its "equals" sign for a "greater than" one, and where reality differs from theory, campus feminists are conforming reality to theory rather than the other way around.

One reality is that Canadian post-secondary undergraduate education is dominated by women, and this gender gap is widening. Why do women lament about the lack of inroads they have made into sciences, engineering and vocational trades, when women dominate all other faculties? Females now account for 60 per cent of graduating students, and 67 per cent of new enrolment. Within the next few years, the gender balance will mean that for every male on Canada's campuses, there will be two females.

The female majority is status quo in post-secondary education. The lack of males on our campuses is not a victory or advancement for women, but constitutes a looming issue. Specialized



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SARAH
HANASYK

I hate Cap'n Crunch cereal. I think in some loser country like Uruguay or Burkina Faso it's probably used as a form of bizarre torture due to its ability to cut up my gums like I'm eating little pieces of glass with razor blades tied to them. But I suppose the motivation for a pirate to create a cereal is evident. I know if I were a pirate, I'd probably find some way to deter infiltrators from going around talking smack about where my bounty is hidden, too. And, aye, the digestive track can be a harsh mistress!

But despite the Cap'n's quest to deter proper spelling and massive tooth damage among its juvenile target audience, it was he who got me thinking of both *Survivor* and torture again, what with the pirate theme. So I asked Mr Crunch in my moaning agony: with this myriad of reality shows that television has come to revere as ratings gods, do you think the media could possibly stoop any lower? Will "Must See TV" one day consist of *Friends*, *ER*, and *Mystery Vaccination*? Or maybe *Identify Your Newborn*? Or how about, *Sex-Change Challenge*?

I like to think that it will.

And this line of thinking consequently led the Cap'n and I to jump on this moneymaking bonanza of exploit-

"It's a wonder no one thought of this before! It combines violence and politics and it weeds out ineffectual public 'servants' who have proven they cannot be part of a team, or defend themselves when faced with physical or mental challenges."

television, collaborating together on an equally appalling, yet intriguingly exciting reality program that will serve to both entertain, and whittle away at the ever-expendable political landscape of unnecessary and useless glad-handers. It combines the ways of the pirate, with subtle bureaucratic ethics.

The show will be called something to the effect of *Russian Roulette*, but with less communist affiliation, being sensitive to American audiences. I envision a series that combines the best and most productive elements of both *Survivor* and Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Running Man*, resulting in political efficiency and instant campaign funding through avid sponsorship. There will be two teams of political figures, each referred to as a "coalition," stuck on a deserted tropical island with only their cunning and exemplary social skills to help them survive.

Every week, the coalitions will partake in a carefully orchestrated platform debate wherein they must provide evidence of past public efficacy. However, instead of items such as food or tools, they would be competing for weapons. Big, painful weapons like machetes or throwing stars. Now here's the best part: the losing coalition is given a weapon, and after a couple days of *Survivor*-esque plot-

ting, they must make their way up to "The Election" where they anonymously choose one teammate with whom they will then use said weapon to seek out and hunt in the episodes to come. I call this tribal council rip-off, "The Vote of Confidence."

It's a wonder no one thought of this before! It combines violence and politics and it weeds out ineffectual public "servants" who have proven they cannot be part of a team, or defend themselves when faced with physical or mental challenges. The only thing it really lacks is the sex appeal that usually goes hand-in-hand with tropical temperatures, but I really don't think we want to see people like Bill Smith or Ralph Klein with their shirts off—especially if they're running at top speed, as politicians should always be.

Now I obviously haven't worked out all the bugs yet—like what to do with the hunted once they are caught, or what to tell the families of these people before they agree to participate in the series, but I'd like to think that stuff like that will work itself out in the end. Because if you think about it, this is a way better way to decide who gets to run a city, province, or even country in the face of adversity. And I think the Cap'n would agree.

We're a lot less liberal than we think



DAVID
BERRY

Fire up the bongos, boys, we're all going to get married. Yes, a lot has been made of late about Canada's supposed transition to a more liberal society, centering on the two topiques du jour in Ottawa: the decriminalization of marijuana and the legalization of same-sex marriage.

The way the media is painting it, you'd think Canada had decided to put up some windmills, dig some dikes and change our name to "New Amsterdam." Now as much as I'd love to believe that we're all on our way to the openness, equality and mild socialism of some of our more liberal counterparts on the other side of the Atlantic, the sad truth is that half of Canada's population is being dragged along, kicking and screaming, while the other half skip down the yellow brick road bragging about how bloody progressive we all are.

To be fair, many of the pundits pointing out our divergence from the conservative ideals that they hold so dear are down in the good ol' United States of America. Compared to the US, general public opinion in Canada is bordering on Marxism, but boasting about being more liberal than the US is akin to bragging about the time you drank your six-year-old cousin Shirley under the table. Sure we look good by comparison, but in the end we're just comparing ourselves to someone in Sponge Bob Squarepants pajamas taking shots out of a sippy cup.

Take the same-sex marriage issue. If we were truly living in a society that



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: SHAWN BENBOW

BLAZE IT UP? Are Canadians really as liberal as they let on?

embraced liberal ideals as much as some of us are claiming, we wouldn't need the courts or equal rights lobby groups to slap parliament in the face with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; we'd have marched on Parliament Hill and done the slapping ourselves. And we certainly wouldn't be seeing large-scale protests of this action by significant sections of our population.

To be totally honest, if we really supported liberal ideas like equality appropriately, this whole thing would be a non-issue and we could all go back to getting nicely toasted. And speaking of getting nicely toasted, and making brilliant segues, the other bee in the bonnet that is our new-found liberalism, the marijuana debate, would be a shining example of our acceptance of liberal ideas and The Grateful Dead in general if it weren't for the fact that it reeked of something other than an obvious joke about the smell of the evil weed.

Unfortunately, my friends, that putrid smell being carried on the winds of

change is the stink of our beloved Jean Chrétien desperately trying to build some sort of half-assed legacy, evidently by getting all of us too mellow to care that all he did for the last decade was spin around on his fancy office chair in between assaulting protesters and finally getting rid of that pesky international prestige we had.

The point I'm trying to make here is that we can sit around and pump ourselves up about being the most progressive thing since the Alan Parsons Project if we want, but when it comes right down to it, we have to realize that as liberal as us crazy Canucks appear to be, there is still a significant portion of our population assaulting innocent photographers with picket signs emblazoned with slogans against gay marriage. Until their numbers are somewhere well below 50 per cent, our "liberal" society is all just a façade that gets us a little praise from our neighbours to the south and lets our liberal-minded denizens get high on their misguided notions instead of pot.

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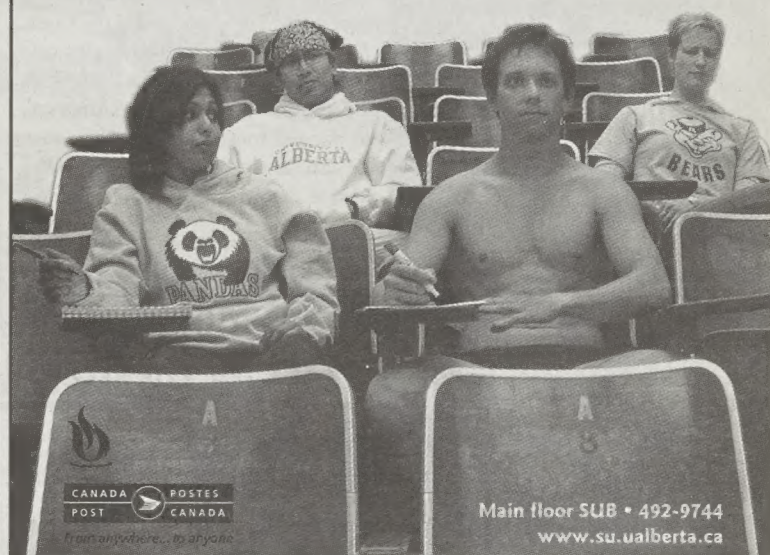
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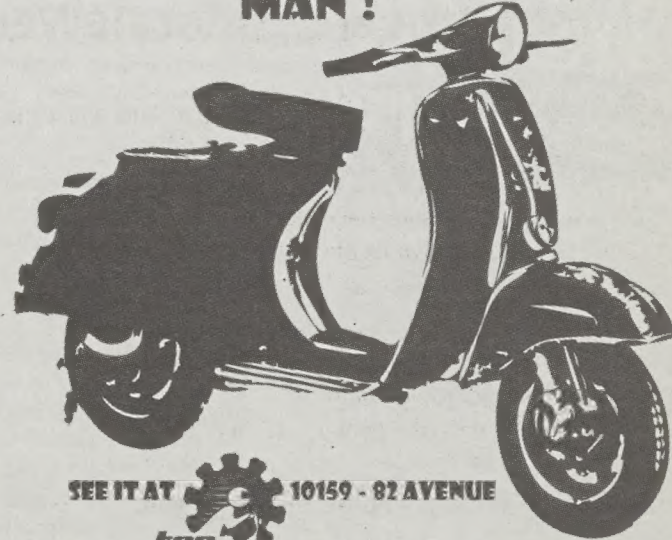
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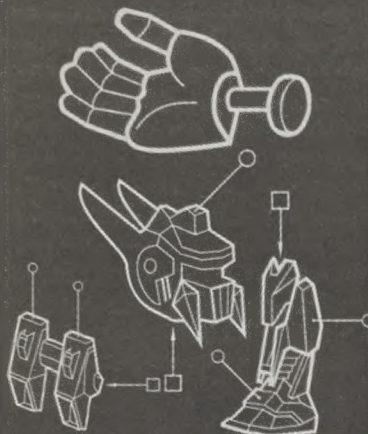
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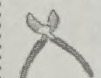
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Behold: cheeseburger fries, as if we needed more beef



PATRICK
SUNDERLAND

Imagine you're Betty Hogan. Who's that? Why, Mrs Hogan is none other than the director of new product marketing for the National Cattleman's Beef Association in the US. This enterprising dame is proudly overseeing the launch of "cheeseburger fries," a mélange of meat and cheese compound processed into a deep-fryable baton. Joy!

You see, the traditional American family doesn't have time to eat dinners together with beef at its epicenter. The Chicken McNugget, introduced in 1983, led a revolution of sorts in the American diet, altering public perception of the bird by turning it into a quick and convenient snack food. Per capita consumption of beef has fallen more than 15 per cent over the last two decades, chicken having meanwhile eclipsed beef's popularity in the carnivorous American's appetite.

"The challenge was getting people to think of other ways to eat beef," Betty said to the *New York Times*. And so plans began in earnest. The cerebral core of the Cattleman's Association got together and worked 'round the clock, churning out myriad strategies and prototypes until they had a golden calf which would re-arouse America's lust for red meat. And on a day when the sun shone bright, and each tulip outside the Advance Food Company's office reached high to taste the rosy-fingered warmth of the sun, cheese-

burger fries were born.

I'm won't graduate with a degree in marketing, but I understand a few of its underlying principles. You see, producers employ what are called "pull and push strategies" to ply their wares. A pull strategy is where consumers demand something, pulling suppliers toward them and creating a market. Push strategies, on the other hand, posit that a producer coerces folks into adding something foreign to their routine consumption pattern, in the hopes that they will develop a taste for it and propagate a widespread demand. This tactic was used to sell the first home computers, and must be the method of choice to hock cheeseburger fries.

After all, I can't imagine too many of us thinking, "Goddamn, if there were only a way I could jam an ounce of flesh and lingering processed cheese flavour into my mouth in one fell swoop!" Well, you can all relax, my kin, because now you can.

I saw this article about the cheeseburger fries' launch in the *National Post*. And if I were so lucky as to be the one to write it, my interview with Mrs Hogan might have gone something like this:

Me: So Mrs Hogan, you're the one responsible for the spread of this... "product" across diners and frozen food sections in the Midwest?

Betty: (enthusiastically) I sure am!

Me: And from what I understand, you're also tailoring a similar product for public school cafeterias?

Betty: You bet.

Me: Mrs Hogan?

Betty: Yes?

Me: At what point during your squalid, tunneled education or miserable life did you abandon the spirit of idealism

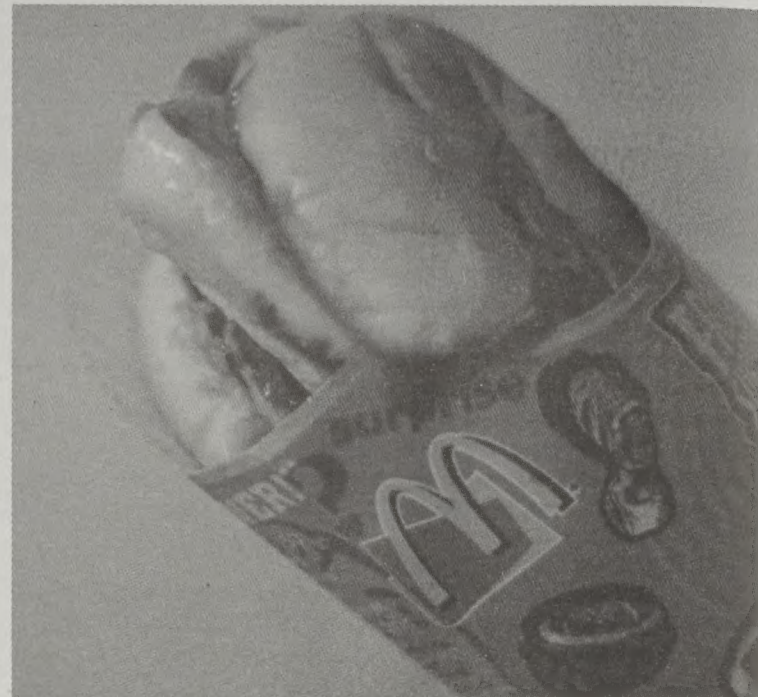


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MATT FREHNER AND CORY WANLESS

VOULEZ-VOUS MANGER AVEC MOI, CE SOIR? The future of fries.

and decide that this is what your professional vocation would amount to?

Betty: What do you mean? Consumers love cheeseburger fries. Look at the charts: we're going to clear half a million in Ohio alone!

Me: Indeed, Mrs Hogan. Lechers buy schoolgirls' panties on eBay, and the count of troll dolls has managed to multiply at bingo halls, inspiring nothing in the way of luck. People will, in fact, buy anything.

Betty: Hooray for the free market!

Me: (sniffing) You smell like barbecue sauce, Betty.

Betty: We're developing a line of veal-based hairsprays. Isn't the aroma intoxicating?

Me: You shameless wench. I hope you get a tapeworm.

Betty: Look for it on shelves come winter!

Advance Foods, the chief retailer of cheeseburger fries, doesn't plan to test the Canadian market just yet. But I can't wait until they do. I'm not a nationalist, but I would shed patriotic tears to see that sales effort fizzle and crash, retreating Advance Foods back to their shitty cave in Enid, Oklahoma.

But the truth of the matter is they'd probably sell like hotcakes. And one fine day, when the world looks a finer shade of foul, you might find me lapping 'em up in Hub Mall, grease spurting off my chin, blood being blasted into my arteries, and baby Jesus crying.

Same-sex marriage just an issue of semantics



MELVIN
BACKSTROM

Ever since the Ontario Court of Appeals ruled that the various laws allowing marriage only between members of the opposite sex was unconstitutional, an inordinate amount has been written both for and against this controversial decision. I've been reluctant to write anything concerning this for two reasons: I doubted whether I actually had something to say that hadn't already been stated by someone, and because of my own confused opinion concerning the matter.

It's not that I have a problem with same-sex partners having the same legal rights and benefits as traditional married couples. My faith in any kind of religious tradition that thinks that homosexuality is a "sin" is pretty much nil. Whether homosexuality is one's choice or a result of genetics doesn't matter to me one bit. If being gay or lesbian is how someone wants to live their life for whatever reason, then that is a choice I must respect.

So given that I have no problem with homosexuality as a lifestyle, you'd think that I wouldn't have a problem with the idea of same-sex marriage. Unfortunately, it's not that simple.

The confusion to which I referred earlier lies with the Orwellian way that a word—marriage—has been redefined not from the free interplay and evolution of an infinitely complex system of signifiers and signifieds, but

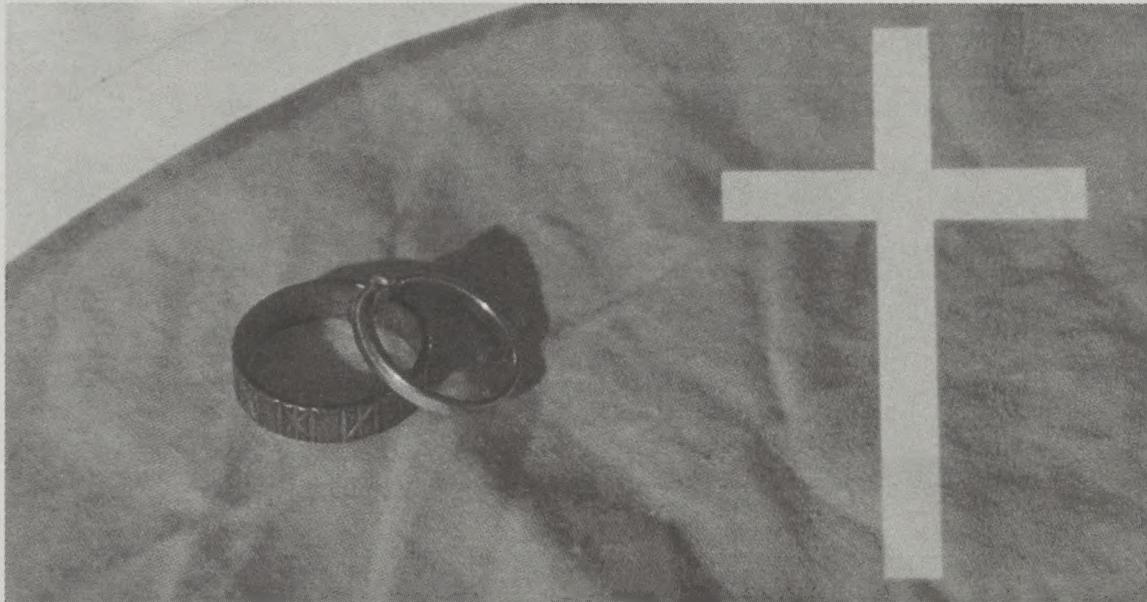


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: CARY WILLIAMS, LEANNE FONG AND JON RIVERO

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Perhaps the same-sex marriage issue is simply one of words and definitions.

from the dictates of a court that has presumed the authority to legislate thought through the top-down, redefining of a word with a history preceding that of the law itself.

Maybe I'm the only one bothered by this, but it does not seem to me like it's the law's right to determine what a word is supposed to mean. Language is radically democratic—it's influenced from all social, cultural and economic positions and resists totalizing control. It is also, however, something of immense power that, if controlled completely, as Orwell set out to describe at least partly in *1984*, the very possibility of freedom disappears.

Not that same-sex marriages would bring about the end of human liberty, but it does raise the question of how far the idea of rights can and should be

applied. Does any group have the right to demand, on the basis of the principle of equality under the law, that the definition of a word be changed in order to include them? To be equal in terms of the rights and responsibilities that derive from being part of a chosen group is, of course, absolutely necessary in a democratic society, but this changes the nature of the group itself.

What this in turn necessitates is not a legal writ deciding upon a new definition, but a new word for signifying the new group; in this case, perhaps as they have already done in Québec and Vermont, "civil union" would be appropriate. The government would, thereby, relinquish the word "marriage" from its legal statutes and leave it up to society as a whole to naturally determine what to then make of this word.

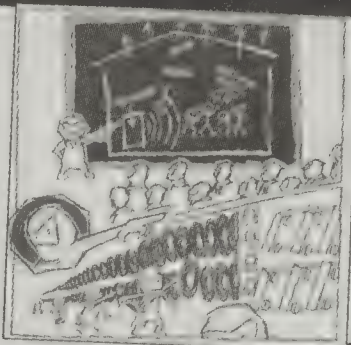
Perhaps soon, the end result might be the same, but then maybe not. The point here being that language would be respected as a transparent democratic medium and avoid being the focus of government propaganda, however well-intentioned and righteous the end result might be.

Perhaps this makes no sense and I am simply acting out my own unconscious conservative impulses. However, no one has yet explained to me why the word "marriage" is such an issue. It means what it means on account of a history in which there is no denying or ignoring its influence. If it has exhausted its function in these times of the universalization of human rights, then so be it. Language, as it has and always will, evolves to allow new realities. To force the issue, however, ultimately does more harm than good.

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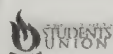
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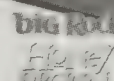
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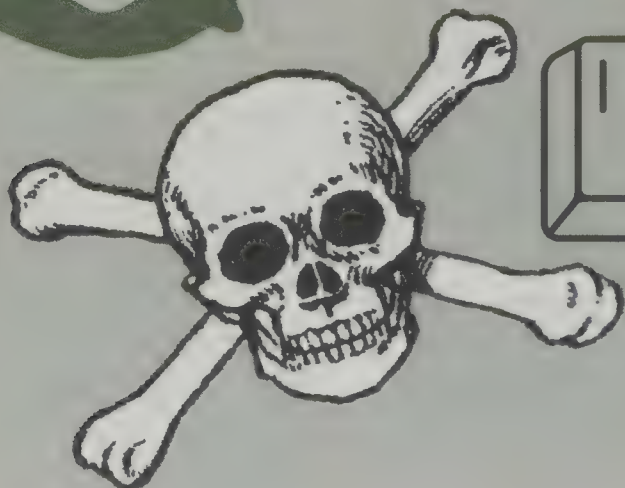
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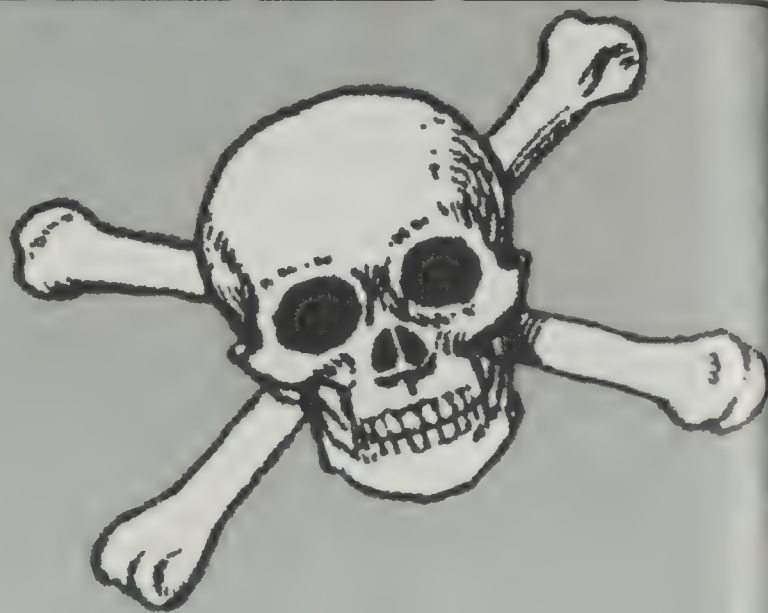


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I N T E R N E T



In the past month, a new move was taken in the ongoing battle of lawsuits and technological swashbuckling that is the Internet music sharing debate.

During the past month, four major music retailers have slashed CD prices by 35 per cent: Future Shop/Best Buy, A&B Sound, HMV Canada Music Stores Ltd, and Wal-Mart Canada Corp. This move comes on the tail of Universal Music Group's decision to decrease its wholesale CD price. Universal, the world's biggest music company, instituted the price cuts in an attempt to reverse the three-year sales slump from which the record industry is suffering, a sales slump attributed to the continued popularity of free downloadable music. Doug Morris, Chairman and CEO of Universal, believes that "when the prices are dramatically reduced on so many titles, we will drive consumers back to stores and significantly bolster music sales." Cheaper CDs, thinks Universal, is the key to sinking the music pirates. But is a 35 per cent discount really more enticing than free electronic music?

Online file sharing has increased dramatically over the last few years. After the death of the popular

network Napster, other smaller networks (Kazaa, Morpheus, Grokster, etc) have popped up on the Internet in Napster's wake. With these newer networks hovering over music retailers and artists like spooky old man Napster's ghost, those in the music industry are worried that they could be put out of business. In desperation, they've instituted measures meant to re-level the playing field.

In 2001, Universal Music Group became the first company to place copy protection on their CDs, rendering them unplayable in digital devices such as computers and game consoles—that is, unless you find a way to get around the system. This move has the potential future ramification of forcing consumers who want to listen to an album on both their computer and stereo to pay twice: once at the store, for the physical CD, and once online, for a downloadable version.

Since then, various types of copy protection have been instituted, sparking a vicious cycle over just how far the record industry can go. Netherlands-based electronics company Philips, which holds the copyright to the compact disc logo, intends not only to remove the logo from discs with copy protection, but to force labels to add warning stickers to their protected discs, as the inclusion of deliberate errors violates the "Red Book" standard for CD-Audio established by Philips and Sony in 1980. Philips also claims that file-sharing models of their players would break the protection and both read and burn the discs.

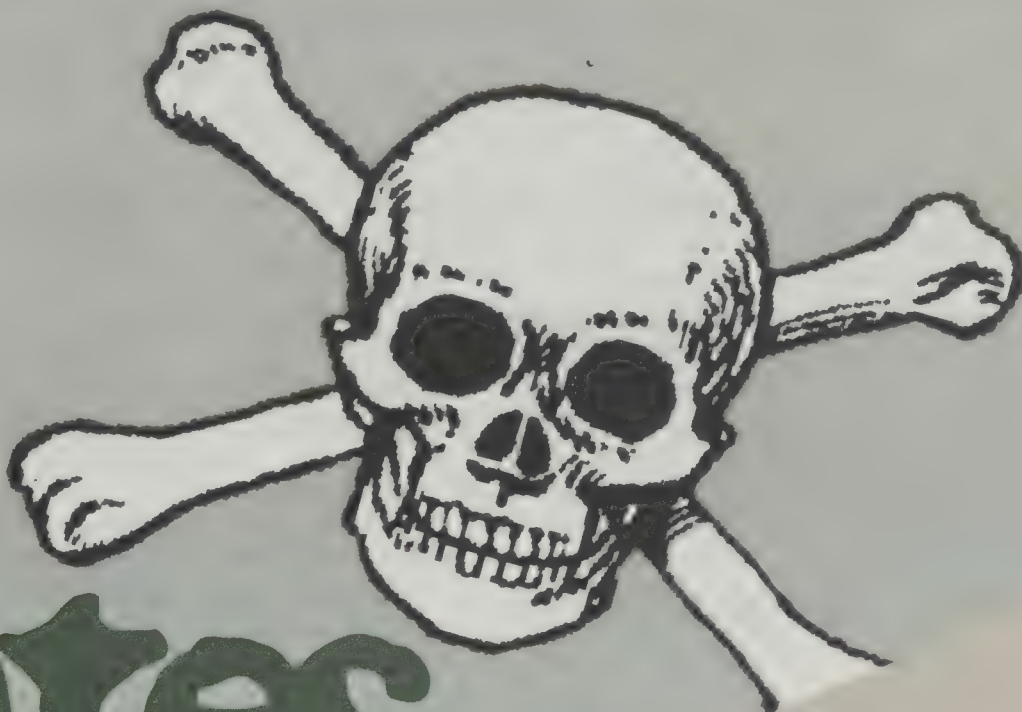
In September, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) launched 261 lawsuits for music piracy against individual Internet users. American laws allow for damages of between \$750 and \$150,000 USD per song stored on a user's computer, but the RIAA's suit against 12-year-old Brianna Lahara suggests that the lawsuits are meant not to get compensation, but to make a public stand against piracy. Lahara had over 1000 music files on her computer, but the lawsuit was settled for \$2000 USD. The effectiveness of these lawsuits has yet to be determined, but it is unlikely to have any widespread effect; rather, it will probably cause file-sharing networks to go further underground as file sharers discover new ways to evade the RIAA.

But it's not just the upper echelons of the industry who are trading blows with the file sharers; artists are also getting stabbed against downloaders. Some artists and labels have taken direct assault, attempting to frustrate downloaders by saturating the market with fake song files. The band Evanescence released files that faded out in places or became overwhelmed by the sound of sirens and other noises. Previous to the release of Madonna's latest album, American file-sharers looking for the track were flooded with seemingly-legit copies of her song, only to hear when it was played, Madonna demanding "What the fuck do you think you're doing?"

Despite the last-ditch efforts of the recording industry, it's likely that file sharing is here to stay. Some artists have accepted this and embraced the technology, turning it to their advantage. Indigo Girls, a duo with a strong folk audience base, state that they allow recordings of live shows to be made. They "believe that taping shows is helpful in the encouragement of fan interaction as a way of having a permanent memory of a live show," but specifically restrict taping to personal and non-commercial use. The Official Matthew Good Band Fanclub offers fans

The effectiveness of these lawsuits has yet to be determined. It is unlikely to have any widespread effect; rather, it will probably cause file-sharing networks to go further underground as file sharers discover new ways to evade the RIAA.





Pirates

Words: Karen Burrows

Photos: Shawn Benbow

chance to download bootlegged live recordings (the club was originally formed by fans and subsequently approved by Matthew Good). Fans pay ten dollars or higher for access to the recordings, with all proceeds going to Amnesty International. Many smaller bands appreciate the exposure they get through file sharing and allow downloading through their official websites. But file sharing can have a negative effect on some of the "middle-class" artists and groups, people who've made it beyond local recognition but haven't yet "hit it big." Edmonton-based Captain Tractor has just celebrated their tenth anniversary with the announcement of a new album to come—"But how many of you would just download it?" vocalist Chris Wynters demanded, semi-seriously, of the crowd at their 19 September Edmonton concert. At the same time, the band proudly added that their 1995 album *East of Edson* was close to receiving a Gold status certification from the RIAA for selling 500 000 copies. In contrast, Metallica, the group that spearheaded the lawsuit against file-sharing network Napster, released their last album in July of 2003; it has already received Platinum certification twice, for combined sales of over 2 000 000 copies. Obviously Metallica hasn't suffered too badly from the rise of file sharing.

But an album's profit is not necessarily based on album sales alone. In Canada, it's not entirely necessary for companies to actually sell a record in order to turn a profit; Canadians are legally allowed to copy music for their own use, but are subject to the Private Copying Tariff. Blank media that can be used for recording purposes are covered by this tax regardless of the use for which they are purchased. The Canadian Private Copying Collective (CPCC), the group that collects the tax, distributes these "royalties" among songwriters, music publishers, recording artists, and record companies. Currently, the tax on audiocassettes is 29 cents, on CD-R and CD-RW discs 21 cents, and on CD-R Audio, CD-RW Audio, and minidisks 77 cents. However, the CPCC has filed a proposal with the Copyright Board to expand and increase the tax. The proposed tariff would more than double the tax on some types of media and would institute a tax on media such as DVD burners, MP3 players, and removable memory. The tax is meant to provide copyright holders with compensation for "lost" income due to copying, but does not take into account legitimate uses (such as recording original materials or creating back-up CDs) for the media it affects.

How much money is going to the corporation, and not the artist?

The possibility of record companies profiting off of copies and Universal's 35-per-cent markdown only begs the question of just how much the CDs were previously marked up. How much money is going to the corporation, and not the artist? Online, it seems that the major retailers are all banding together: both HMV.com and CDNow.com have merged with Amazon.com. A price comparison with some of the few independent retailers remaining, such as CDBaby.com and SubPop.com, reveals an average markup of four or five dollars at Amazon.com. CDBaby.com claims that in a "regular" distribution deal, artists receive only one or two dollars per record, while through CDBaby they receive six to twelve. Where, in the larger corporations, is the money going? Not, apparently, directly to the artists. Musicians as diverse as Cher, Public Enemy, and Sarah Brightman offer records for sale over the Internet, eliminating the middleman altogether. Perhaps it's not far from there until selling an album entirely in MP3 format becomes popular.

Record companies look ahead and worry that the profits they make on CDs will be undercut by file sharing. Their attempts to stop the copying have been futile—their copy protection can, in some cases, be broken by something as simple as writing on the CD with a Sharpie pen, and file sharers continue to find new ways to search out free music. File sharing continues to thrive, and lawsuits, tampered MP3s, and lower CD prices probably won't change that fact. If anything, Universal's 35-per-cent surrender seems to suggest the pirates are winning this battle.



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STUDENTS' UNION PAGE

OCTOBER 9 2003



In an attempt to break the monotony of the average insert, I want to talk to you. If you have a friend around, get them to read this to you. It'll be more interesting that way and you should be able to understand it better. It's not like I could give you my advice on threesomes, that just might offend some of you. So go ahead. Do it.

So I'm sure that you're curious what your elected reps are doing in the tower that they inhabit this year. As President I get to avoid answering that question [really] and instead say that I do everything. But, luckily I'm not going to try and do that. Instead, I'm going to share with you the major places where I think the University needs major overhaul. Yeah, that's the sort of thing that I get to do, set out thought patterns that dictate the actions of the lumbering monster that is your student government.

However, to do my job better, the SU needs to better understand you. But to do that, we need you to want us to understand you.

All of those clichés about two-way communication can be inserted here: _____. Okay, now that we're done with that, it's the truth that to better serve you as a President I have two options. One is to attempt to talk to you one on one, the other is to have people who collect many of your opinions and bring them as one of many to me – we'll call these folks representatives. Make them listen to me, and if they don't make me listen to you, but try the other one first. However, I did make an open invitation to all first years to come and talk to me at the Presidents' Address, and anyone has yet to take me up on it, except one fifth year guy named Brendan – hey Brendan! So drop by my office in 2-900 SUB, give me a shout at 492-4236 or send me an e-mail at president@su.ualberta.ca.

I think we need to fix the integration of first year into the University. We need to create a system with the University that ties the academic and social environment to make University the community that we need to have to encourage free and expressive discourse.

Now I know that there are many of you that made it into University without trouble. That's why you're still here. We loose 1/4 of the first year cohort by second year. By the end, we've only graduated 55% of the people that came in, and that's for the 1995 group (and likely it's become worse since, if our patterns hold true).

Why are people leaving, but more importantly, why are more people leaving university today than in the past? Naturally tuition increasing by more than 215% since 1991 is part of the answer, but I think the University also has to share some of the responsibility. The reality is that University is a far different environment than your average high school, community college or technical institute. I want to see the University mesh the academic programs here to some introductory programs. The first step will be to link first year classes and orientation programs. The rest will take time.

At the same time, tuition continues to be a problem. However, the solution still eludes our student government. What I see from our University community presents me with several problems. First, I know that the University budget has been cut steadily for twenty years. This is the major source of problems relating to tuition. I am attempting this year to work to solve that base problem—the ever-important base operating grant.

This is nonetheless not the only problem. At the same time that the total pot of money has been decreasing, the focus of our University has been (successfully) to increase our research profile. Part of this has been a national precedent that we have blindly followed; some of this is because it is plausible to quantify research achievement, where teaching is huge but intangible benefit.

So I will commit to fighting tuition increases, but I believe that ensuring that the University is spending on classrooms and teaching at the same time. I will commit to focusing on the source of the problem, and I will not stop until we have access to the U of A for all qualified students.

In this process, an opportunity has arisen. The University has indicated that they would be interested in pursuing multi-year tuition increases. After lengthy debate, I find myself still undecided. Although this is a process decision, it will have a huge impact. As such it merits lengthy debate, so I would implore each of you to discuss it, and take advantage of my open door, available email, and easy phone number (president@su.ualberta.ca and 492-4236, for you again).

And I hope each of you is a little better aware of what I do. Not that this is all, just the more interesting things...

If you want the rest you'll have to find me and I'll buy you a beer.

Cheers!
Mat

YOUR 2003/2004 SU EXECUTIVE
492.4236

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UPCOMING SU EVENTS:

- Oct. 11: Mad Bomber Society**
@ Dinwoodie Lounge, with Wednesday Night Heroes and the Gamblers; tix @ Ticketmaster
- Oct. 11: Roger**
with , Buttless Chaps, 5 O'Clock Charlie and Monique Laflamme @ Powerplant
- Oct. 16: Kid Koala**
@ Powerplant, with dj p-love, dj jester and more, tix @ Ticketmaster
- Oct. 17: Bill 43 Event**
@ the Quad, 12:00
- Oct. 17: Name That Tune!**
@ Powerplant
- Oct. 18: Tupelo Honey**
@ Powerplant, with Wisconsin and Willisbong
- Oct 20: Movie Night in Dewey's**
Edward Norton Night: Death to Smoochy, The Score
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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
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UNION**

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Volleyball

Our beloved **Golden Bears** (6-1) take on those dastardly Americans in the Husky Energy Can-Am Challenge this weekend. Check them out Thursday at 7pm against UC Irvine, Friday at 8pm against Pepperdine, and concluding Saturday also at 8pm against BYU. As an added bonus, Thursday is Student Appreciation Night! Everyone with a OneCard gets in free! With a deal that rad, we should all get out and support our boys. Down with America!

Also in volleyball action, the big bad **Pandas** head to Saskatoon for a tournament of epic proportions. Our ladies take on Manitoba and Laurier on Friday then meet the evil Dinos of Calgary on Saturday. We'll see them on Monday with a big, fat gold around their neck.

Football

Our five-alarm-chili hot **Golden Bears** football team hosts the evil Calgary Dinos Saturday at 7pm over at Foote Field. The Bears, led by QB Darryl Salmon and bad-ass running back Jarred Winkel are looking for their first four-game win streak since 1984 (incidentally my birth year). If you can't make it, you can listen to Bob Stauffer and Global's Kevin Karius call the game on **CJSR FM88** starting at 6:45 with the pre-game. Or you could just bring yourself down and not only cheer our boys to victory, but also see my dad work the sticks on the sidelines. Radness will abound. Go Dad!

Hockey

That other unstoppable varsity force, our bronze-medal defending **Golden Bears** hockey team (7-0-0 in preseason) are ready to butt heads with the evil Regina Rams this weekend. Our boys, led by captain/superman Blair St Martin and preseason leading scorer Kevin Marsh (3G, 6A), will be setting Clare Drake Arena on fire at 7:30pm Friday and Saturday. In case you're at another Bears sporting event Friday, you can listen to Bob Stauffer call the game with *Sun* buddy Scott Zerr on **CJSR FM88** beginning at 7:30pm. Here's to the beginnings of an unbeaten season! You heard it here first.

Basketball

Both of our illustrious basketball teams see some exhibition action this week. On the home front, the **Pandas** host crosstown rivals Grant MacEwan on Thanksgiving Monday. If you're not busy catching up with drunk relatives, come watch as we baste those turkies from downtown at 5pm in the Main Gym. On the flip side, the **Bears** head out to Lloydminster Thursday to teach the University of Saskatchewan Huskies some obedience. The party gets started at 7pm.



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN JENNINGS

Cross-Country

Due to some shift in the space-time continuum, both the third-place Bears and the Pandas are taking part in a meet in Victoria, BC. Do you remember how in high school they used an "X" for cross country, like "X country" as if the X-men were doing athletics? Well, these boys and girl may not have skeletons made of adamantium or laser eyes, but their running feats are pretty close to super-hero-like proportions.

DAVID BERRY
Interim Sports-in-Briefer

Bears host Pan-Am Challenge volleyball tournament

Four NCAA teams come to Edmonton to challenge the Bears and three other CIS teams

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

Coming off of last weekend's matches against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies in Lloydminster, another border battle is in store for the Golden Bears volleyball team, as this weekend the Bears and three other CIS teams take on four American NCAA squads in this year's annual Husky Energy Pan-Am Challenge.

Joining the Bears from this side of the 49th parallel will be the Huskies, the University of Manitoba Bisons, and the University of Montréal Carabins. Representing the US will be the Brigham Young University Cougars, the Pepperdine Waves, the UC Irvine Anteaters, and the Longbeach State 49ers.

Each year, the tournament brings in new competition from south of the border, with the exception of Pepperdine who will be making their tenth appearance to the pre-season tournament, including when the tournament featured only one American team back when it was called the Alberta Cup.

Due to connections with Pepperdine head coach Marv Dunphy, Bears head coach Terry Danyluk has continued inviting the Waves every year. "I consider [Dunphy] to be somewhat of a mentor for me," said Danyluk. "He's a very good person, and a great volleyball coach." Dunphy's reputation proceeds him, as he was the head coach of the 1988 gold medal US Olympic team, and won a world championship in 1986 with the US men's team. "He's got a great approach to the game, and I really rely on him a lot as a resource," added Danyluk.

Going into last year's NCAA final four tournament, Dunphy's Waves and the Cougars were respectively ranked first and second in the country, providing more than adequate competition for the Canadian teams who are finishing up their exhibition preparations. "[Both teams] returned a fairly large number of players from their rosters from last year, so I expect both of those teams to be very strong," said Danyluk.

UC Irvine and Long Beach State are no slouches



FILE PHOTO: MAYLENE LOVELAND

NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE Bears ready to bump off their NCAA counterparts.

either. The Anteaters began last year in the number one spot for the first half of the season before Pepperdine and BYU surpassed them, and Long Beach State was also a top-ten ranked team, retaining most of their roster from last year.

The Bears will provide a great warmup for their US counterparts as well, with the only rule changes between CIS and NCAA being that NCAA plays rally points up to 30. CIS rules, and subsequently the rules of the tournament, have rally points to 25.

Each night's feature match will showcase the Golden Bears taking on an NCAA team, beginning tonight with at 7pm in the Main Gym. As it is also student appreciation night, all U of A students will admitted free with their OneCard. Friday's games begin at 10am and go throughout the day, splitting venues between the Main Gym and the Pavillion. The Bears play Friday's feature game against Pepperdine at 8pm in the Main Gym, and close out the tournament on Saturday night at 8pm playing against BYU.

Football Bears look to win fourth straight against Calgary

Last regular season home game at Foote Field this Saturday; could playoffs be near?

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

Like the leaves, the times are a-changing. No longer are the Golden Bears out of the hunt for the postseason before the end of October. Coming into this Saturday's game against the University of Calgary Dinos (3-1), the eighth ranked Bears (3-2) are riding high on a three game winning streak, while the Dinos narrowly missed a victory in their last outing, losing 37-35 to the University of Regina Rams.

This is the first matchup in two weeks for the Golden Bears, as they come off their bye week. "I think it was a good time to have the bye week, because it allowed a lot of guys to get healthy," said offensive lineman Chuck Pelc. Adds running back/special teams unit member David Bissett, "it's a tradeoff; you take a little time off to get better, but at the same time you slow down a little bit and you have to get back into it."

Recently, the Bears have been exceling in all facets of the game. The defence is ranked second in the Canada West allowing only an average of 20.6 yards per game, and sporting a deadly secondary that has snagged ten interceptions already this season in only five games. On offence, the Bears are first overall in points per game with 37.4 (bolstered by the 71-16 spanking of Manitoba in week four) and possess the dangerous combination of running back Jarred Winkel and quarterback Darryl Salmon. Winkel leads the Canada West in rushing yards, is third in the CIS, and looks to have a field day against the third-ranked U of C run defence.

This week's game will be a rematch of week

one in Calgary, where the Bears lost a heart-breaker by one point on the last play of the game. "That was a tough game for everybody and it's nice that we get the chance to play them again," said Bears defensive lineman Darren Balderson

Saturday's game is also a showdown for second place in the Canada West conference, with the winner virtually locking up a post-season appearance. Currently, three teams are deadlocked for second, all of which currently hold Canada West playoff spots: the Bears, U of C, and Simon Fraser. As the Bears haven't made it past the regular season in a decade, this game shapes up to

big one. "Right now, the goal is to win the next game. And as long as we keep winning down the line, we should probably be getting into the playoffs," said Pelc. Another Bears victory puts them one step closer to clinching a playoff spot, and possibly getting home field advantage in the first round.

This week's game promises to be entertaining. Both teams match up well on either side of the ball, and are familiar with each others' style of play. The game begins at 7pm this Saturday at Foote Field, and will also be broadcast live on CJSR FM88 for those unable to attend.



FILE PHOTO: CORY WANLESS

BRING ON THE DINOS Bears QB Darryl Salmon (7) can extend their win streak to four this Saturday.

Bears hockey season finally begins

After a long preseason, the Bears start the season off Saturday against Regina

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

As the old saying goes, practice makes perfect, and after eight preseason games the Golden Bears hockey team should be nearing godlike perfection, as the coaches have been given ample opportunity to get their rosters ready for this weekend's home opening games against the Regina Cougars.

Beginning in mid-September with a game against the Oilers rookie team, the Bears have been gearing up for the season to start. "When you have an experienced team, preseason can be a little bit of annoyance," said Bears head coach Rob Daum. "It goes on for a long time, and maybe a little longer than the players like."

Last weekend's Brick Invitational gave the Bears competition from more cohesive teams than the Oilers rookies in the form of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies and the University of Calgary Dinos. "I think we had a pretty good preseason, and we were lucky to get some good preseason competition," said Daum. "But everybody is looking forward to the opportunity to start the conference, and the challenges that go along with that."

The Bears will start the season without the services of veteran centre Tyler Shybunka, who has a shoulder problem. Arguably last year's most dominant line, Shybunka's linemates Steve Shrum and Wade Burt will have to work with a different middleman. Fellow veteran Kevin Marsh will most likely replace Shybunka for this weekend's games.

Newcomer Ben Thomson, who



PHOTO CREDIT: JAKE EDENLOFF

FOR REAL THIS TIME Forward Johnathan Hobson's Bears begin Friday night.

scored 40 goals for the WHL Medicine Hat Tigers last year, will also be cracking the lineup to help fill the void left by Shybunka's absence. "Ben is a really exciting player," boasts Daum. "He's not very big (5'7", 180lbs), but he's really competitive and he's quick. He's the type of guy who's going to make a lot of things happen offensively." It's a good possibility that Thomson will be centering a line with veteran wingers Ryan Wade and Kris Knoblauch.

Other newcomers that have impressed Daum and his staff include left-wingers Tim Krymusa and Richard Hamula, and defenceman Harlan Anderson. "Krymusa is a little more subtle. He's not as flashy as Ben [Thomson] but he can accomplish things offensively as well," commented Daum. "Hamula was a really steady performer for us as a first-year player [in the preseason]."

"All the players that we've added

over the summer have come in and have done a good job," said Daum. "We're happy with our recruiting class." Also new to the team is defenceman Ryan Stempfle, who will have to wait a while for his season to begin because of a broken jaw.

The Regina Cougars should keep the Bears on their toes with their aggressive forechecking style of play. "[The Cougars] play a physical game," said Daum. "They're not going to sit back and let the play come to them. They try to make things happen, and we have to be prepared for that."

After going 7-0 in their preseason competition, the Bears will look to continue their streak against the Cougars. The puck drops at Clare Drake arena on both Friday and Saturday night at 7:30pm. For those unable to attend Friday night's game, it will be broadcast live on 88.5 CJSR with host Bob Stauffer doing play-by-play and Scott Zerr on colour.

Cross-country Sled Dog Open

Bears and Pandas in Saskatoon for second race

ANNA O'BRIEN
Sports Staff

Last Friday, the Pandas and Bears headed to Saskatoon to compete in the Sled Dog Open, their second race of their cross-country season. Sled Dog was the Bears and Pandas first race in the series of CIS competitions leading up to nationals, and looking at the results thus far, the U of A is going to be a major threat.

The Bears sent two teams to Saskatoon, with the "A" team placing second behind the University of Calgary Dinos, while the "B" team came in fifth. The rankings are determined by a scoring system in which points are assigned to place finishes, with first place being one point, second place two points, and so on. The top five finishers on each team are totaled and the team with the least points wins. The top Bear in the race was Dallas Raudebaugh who came in third with a time of 26:42. Captain Brian Torrance finished fifth in 27:20 with fellow captain Kelsey Keleman right behind him, coming in at 27:27. The two other "A" team scorers were Adrian Lambert, 21st place in 28:36 and Brian Jamieson, 27th place in 29:10. The "B" team placers were Mike Metcalfe who came 14th and was clocked at 28:04, followed by Geoff Ulrich, Jason Carver, Jon McGavock, and Ben Adam who placed 30th, 32nd, 34th, and 38th respectively.

"We should have, could have, didn't win," remarked Bears cross-country coach Glen Playfair. "But we didn't have our top seven [runners], only the top five and one of the guys on the 'B' team really ought to have been on the 'A' team." Overall, coach Playfair was

pleased with the results saying, "This race gives us confidence for down the road. We know that in order to win nationals our fifth-place guy needs to be running a 32-minute 10km and that can definitely happen. We are still positive about our chances to win CIS."

The women raced 5km on the same course ran by the men. The Pandas placed third overall, not far behind Calgary and the Regina Harriers. The top finishing Panda was captain Heidi Nusse, who came in tenth with a time of 19:21. She was followed closely by Kerianne Yewchuk who placed 13th in 19:29, Lindsay Acheson 14th in 19:33, Krissy Dooling 16th in 19:35, and Michelle Carle, 18th place in a time of 19:38.

Next weekend, the top seven Bears and Pandas are off to race in Victoria.



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN JENNINGS

CROSS-COUNTRY Third-place finish.

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Sports world still hampered by intolerance

From Limbaugh to Schott, the sporting world has foot-in-mouth disease



MATTHEW BLACK

Sports Commentary

One need not look further than last week's comments by ultra-conservative talk-show pundit Rush Limbaugh to see that racism and intolerance are alive and well in today's sports world. On ESPN's *NFL Countdown*, seen Sunday mornings in Canada on TSN, Limbaugh claimed that Philadelphia Eagles starting quarterback Donovan McNabb was overhyped because the media was desperate to see a black athlete succeed at the quarterback position.

The obvious inference here is that McNabb couldn't be successful based on skill alone; he needed the help of the liberal sports media to prop up his performances.

While one would like to think that Rush's blatherings were the lone example of intolerant/politically incorrect sports figures going off, sadly that's incorrect.

It's almost eerie how Limbaugh's commentary paralleled that of Jimmy "the Greek" Snyder, the legendary Vegas gambler who was fired from his CBS job in 1988 for saying blacks were naturally better athletes because of their history as slaves. In the '90s, Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott was censored and fined after infamously making comments supporting Nazism and Hitler, coupled with using "N-bombs" to describe her African-American players.

In the NHL, meanwhile, there were so many incidences of racial disharmony—including Washington forward Chris Simon being fined for allegedly dropping a racial slur on black Florida Panthers enforcer Peter Worrell in 1997—the league had to do more than just handing out fines as the only solution and instated diversity-training seminars for offenders at the league's head office in New York.

"The sports media, being liberals just like liberal media is elsewhere, have a desire that black quarterbacks excel and do very well so that their claims that blacks are being denied opportunity can be validated."

RUSH LIMBAUGH

Such racism and intolerance is not by any means restricted to North America, or to skin colour either. For instance, there's the sad story of soccer player Justin Fashanu. In 1990, Fashanu became Britain's first openly gay soccer player. After this, he quickly became the butt end of countless jokes, was taunted by fans and opponents alike on the pitch, and was the topic of sensationalist newspaper articles. To escape the abuse he moved to America to coach a minor league side, only to return to England shortly thereafter and

commit suicide in 1998.

The preceding stories are only a selection taken from scores of others. Collectively they make one wonder how far the sports world—and indeed society as a whole—has come since pioneers such as Jackie Robinson, the first black to play in the Major Leagues, Willie O'Ree, the first black to play in the NHL, and Marlin Briscoe, the NFL's first black starting quarterback changed the monochromatic look of professional sports.

Looking at today's sports scene, the management side has not much improved either. NFL players are 60–70 per cent black, whereas of the league's thirty-two head coaches, only four are black. There are no black NFL owners.

Neither has there been an athlete participating in a "major" team sport that has emerged as homosexual while playing the game. Only former Major League shortstop Billy Bean came out of the closet after retirement, and did so in his 2003 book *Going the Other Way*.

One should not be so utopian as to look at today's sports and think that intolerance is gone or even close to it. Comments such as Limbaugh's should not and happily were not tolerated (he was reprimanded and asked to resign).

Sports have led the charge for societal change before, with the case of Jackie Robinson being the best example. It's possible for sports to do it again. Put differently, it's only matter of time before the gay community gets its own Jackie Robinson. But as Rush proved last Sunday, we as an accepting society have a long way to go.

Worthy sports heroes hard to find



ERIN LOXAM

Sports Commentary

Though I've tried my luck at the lottery, I know that my million will only be the summation of a lifetime of hard work. As such, I can't help but feel a little pang of contempt towards athletes who make in one year what my father made in 30 years teaching junior-high math. Still, I'm not arguing the math of whether professional athletes deserve this kind of money, rather how they deal with their new found wealth.

I hate being priced out of the nosebleeds, but the truth is, even if I won't pay exorbitant amounts of cash for tickets, someone else will. The fans are to blame for young basketball sensation LeBron James getting \$13 million for his first three years in the NBA. That number pales in comparison to the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of endorsements that your purchases of shoes and soft drinks go towards.

But how far do millions of dollars go? In the case of another straight-out-of-high-school NBA player Kobe Bryant, it goes towards his court fees. The feeling of invincibility that comes with gazillions of dollars clouds the judgement of young athletes. Imagine being handed a couple millions upon your 18th birthday. Even at 22, I'd like to think I'd be a savvy investor, until you came over to my penthouse suite and saw my collection of karaoke machines.

Being in the spotlight and having easy access to fast cars, drugs, and alcohol throws many young athletes into

a tailspin that they will never recover from. Ask NHLer Theoren Fleury (if you can find him).

When I was in elementary school, I did a presentation about my heroes. Despite growing up in Edmonton, (Go Oilers!) I spoke about Fleury. He was small and came from a shady background (shadier than I'd ever understand in grade five). I thought he was my hero. Though he's given a valiant effort to vanquish his personal problems, he's no hero.

Those who break boundaries in sports the way Jackie Robinson overcame racism in baseball are heroes. He led the way for minorities in professional sports. But, unfortunately, his type is few and far between. Athletes may win matches by scoring timely goals and may be heroes on the field of play, but are in essence still just celebrities due to their overexposure. Not only that, they are thrown into stardom before they are even legal drinking age in the United States.

The pages of entertainment magazines are strewn with the stories of child-actors. But without having a normal childhood, these kids with money land themselves in trouble. Is it not the same pressure which is put on sports protégés? We want to look up to them. But they aren't everything we want them to be; they aren't perfect.

Maybe I'm just trying to find an excuse for a talented young man, who had everything going the right way, except for teammate Dany Heatley's Ferrari. I'm speaking about Atlanta Thrasher forward Dan Snyder who died from injuries sustained from a car crash with Heatley, six days after the accident. My condolences go out all involved in this tragedy, especially to the Snyder family. Dan Snyder—a sports hero who at 25, was taken too early.



Golden Bears Hockey vs. Regina Cougars
Friday & Saturday, 7:30 PM
Clare Drake Arena

Golden Bears Football vs. Calgary Dinos
Saturday 7:00 PM
Foote Field
Campbell's Chunky Chili Campus Food Bank Night
Please bring a non-perishable food donation to the game

Golden Bears Volleyball Husky Energy CIS NCAA Challenge
Thursday 7:00 PM vs. UC Irvine
Friday, 8:00 PM vs. Pepperdine
Saturday Noon vs. Long Beach State
8:00 PM vs. Brigham Young Cougars
U of A Students free on Thursday Night with OneCard courtesy of the Legacy Fund



SOCIAL
INTERCOURSE**Symphony in the Dark****Hip Hop Cabaret**

Queen Alexandra Community Hall
Saturday, 11 October

As part of the Edmonton Small Press Association's North of Nowhere Expo, this is one of those rare hip-hop shows that's less about shakin' your booty and more about opening your mind. Featuring fare that ranges from the extremely avant-garde electronic compositions of Agaperaygun to the socially socially conscious rhymes of Saskatoon's F(x), there's bound to be something for everyone who's burnt out on all the monotone rock that's infected the airways.

And, though it is a licensed event, it's all ages so you can bring your kid sister along and finally undo all that Avril Lavigne brainwashing.

Black Rice**Seedy's**

Sunday, 12 October



RICERONI? Black Rice sweats it out on stage.

In the pantheon of Edmonton venues, Seedy's may not be the most well-known, but it's definitely made a name for itself in the post-Rev era of the Edmonton scene. The space may be small and the beer prices on the steep side, but their musical taste is always impeccable. Hence, Black Rice.

This is the first time that Vancouver foursome has visited the intimate venue, but word has it that their August show at New City was a must-see. If that doesn't convince you, check out their website www.blackrice.net, which includes some amazing live recordings, for some evidence of their furious post-rock sound.

Nevertheless, The Kasuals, Hills Have Eyes, Fractal Pattern and Stillframe

New City Likwid Lounge
Friday, 10 October



HORNY? Fractal Pattern adds French horns.

Well, can you believe it's already time for the third Method Records Showcase? It seems just yesterday the local indie label was toddling onto the scene, coddled in the arms of Nevertheless' Leith Brownridge and Ed Trela. Well, Okay, it really hasn't been that long (the first showcase happened only last March) but the venues have been getting steadily larger and a few of the label's bands have seen some big recent changes.

Fractal Pattern, for instance, who wowed audiences when they opened for the Weakerthans in September, have added a symphonic warmth to their former mathrock sound with the unprecedented addition of a French horn. Seeing that might be just worth it all on its own.

ERIKA THORKELSON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Mad Bomber Society jump suit-first into the Edmonton music community

Mad Bomber Society

with The Gamblers

Powerplant

Saturday, 11 October

HEATHER ADLER

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Edmonton isn't exactly known for churning out chart-topping, platinum-selling, übergroups who make enough money to buy a sledteam of poodles made out of rubies, but that doesn't mean the music scene here isn't thriving. According to Mad Bomber Society lead vocalist and River City scene veteran Rich Bomber, the atmosphere in town has never been better.

"The scene right now is at a peak and it's fantastic," Bomber confidently asserts. "We're on tour right now, we've been all across the country and Edmonton is one of the best scenes I've ever seen."

Sure, Edmonton may not boast the deafening buzz of Toronto and, okay, there aren't as many dirty hippies creating "art rock" here as there are in Vancouver, but Bomber says it's the attitude of kids in the clubs that sets our prairie punks apart. "Most of the people in our scene have a really positive attitude and are willing to help each other out. Bands play together all the time, there are very few arguments over money and it seems people aren't so greedy here. It's just the way everyone helps each other out and stands up for each other that makes Edmonton different."

Bomber also praises the versatile ears and the casual demeanor of gig-goers here, which has given local bands the opportunity to share the stage even when their musical ideologies are worlds apart. "Winnipeg is a good example where there are emo gigs or hardcore gigs or punk gigs where all the bands playing a show sound the same, but they seem to be afraid to crossover the bands," he explains. "We are so happy to have our scene: if you don't like one of the bands playing then go drink in the alley and come back in later for the bands that you do like."



BOMBS OVER E-TOWN? Rich Bomber says the Edmonton music scene has never been better.

According to Bomber, having a close-knit community where a libido-driven hardcore act isn't afraid to befriend country crooners only strengthens everyone. "It means there's always a challenge to get better and better because if you don't then your best friends are going to do something better than you," he laughs, relating the challenge of showing up your colleagues to a affectionate game of oneupmanship.

Together since '96, the Mad Bomber Society jumped suit-first into the first wave of the ska movement and, although the trend has now passed, Bomber says their persistence to keep playing is just a sign of how they've learned to put their priorities in the right place. "It's actually really cool that most of the ska scene has disappeared, because now the other bands that we see don't have the aspirations of being superstars so their songwriting and performances are

getting really good," he continues. "Instead of bands trying to sound like their influences, there are bands that sound good and fresh because they're playing clubs and they're out to have fun. For us the main goal has always been to party, have a good time, forget about all the problems for a night and get people to come out and enjoy it with us."

Bomber is so content with his band's position in the scene that he says he's "DIY to the core" and would never choose to sign a record contract even if the offer was made. It may not be easy to make a living in the small music landscape of Edmonton, but he's content to keep his group of brass, horns and guitars playing just for the love of the community. "If you're in a band, you have to love what you're doing, and as long as you have that inner drive you can keep going in the face of all kinds of adversity," Bomber concludes.

Toronto duet brings audio terrorism to town

Death From Above

with guests

New City Likwid Lounge

Thursday, 8 October

HEATHER ADLER

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Named after a wrestling move, Death From Above brings a violently loud edge to their music, which is produced using only a drum kit and a bass guitar. If you took the minimalistic drum and bass couplet of The White Stripes, injected their guitar sounds with menacing distortion, force-fed them two packs a day to sully up their vocals, and told them to start playing at a volume that some would consider to be dangerously close to audio terrorism, you would have something that sounds a lot like Death From Above.

"I'm a way better drummer than Meg White is so I don't have to worry about being showed up [by her]," laughs Death From Above drummer Sebastian Grainger. "I like the White Stripes, so I find the comparison very flattering, but sonically there are very few similarities between us and them."

While both bands aim to achieve a full, bursting sound using only two instruments, Death From Above comes from a much more hardcore background. Grainger and his bassist sidekick, Jesse Keeler, broke onto the Toronto scene with the highly-coveted apocalyptic quartet, Femme Fetal. But Grainger is eager to point out switching from a full band to a two-person set up hasn't

effected the fullness of their sound. "The way we're set up instrumentally there's no need for other talents," he remarks. "Jesse uses a pretty elaborate bass rig that enables him to get a full range of sound so he can make it seem like a guitar is playing because he gets both the higher and lower tones. Most straight-ahead riff rock is only one part anyway. If you reference someone like AC/DC that's exactly what they do so it's not too hard to pull off."

Staying true to their spazzy form of rock n' roll, Grainger describes Death From Above as "still pretty loud," but says cutting down on the number of members has also cut out a lot of their static. The new songs are more focused and Grainger, who writes all the lyrics, seems to have inadvertently added a little more controversy to his lyrical stylings.

"People have been offended, but my lyrics are so personal that if someone is offended by them it's because they think I'm making a generalization," he asserts. The band's most notorious song, "Dead Womb," has caused all kinds of people to get their panties in a twist over a lyric that claimed Grainger was "tired of sluts coming into the club with their cocaine."

"People think that I have an attitude towards all women, or all substance abusers, but that song is written about a specific group of people that I observed living shitty lives. I didn't want to be associated with them and they were trying to be associated with me so that song was a reaction to the situation," Grainger defends. "I just write about what I know."



SUPPLIED BY EVA MICHON

HIP? Death From Above have cute haircuts.

Death From Above has already earned themselves spots opening for classic jaded thrashers Anthrax, hipster favourites The Ya-Ya-Yas, and are in the midst of bring their low-end wall of sound to the clubs of Canada. They probably aren't as cute and hip as the White Stripes, but if you have a hankering for some Northern two-person experimental distortion, this band just might have what it takes to offend you.

Richard Linklater takes a lesson in big studio filmmaking

Spotlight

Richard Linklater

Director of *School of Rock*, *Slackers*, *Waking Life*, *Dazed and Confused* and *The Newton Boys*

JAMES ELFORD

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Most film buffs were shocked when they learned that director Richard Linklater—who gained fame as one of the first independents of the '90s with his film *Slackers* and later cemented it with other releases like *Waking Life*—was directing the new mainstream and wide release comedy, *School of Rock*, starring Jack Black. But if you ask Richard this isn't a matter of selling out to big studios—it's just a lot more noticeable this time.

"I know we all have labels: people put you in a certain category. I'm in this indie film category, but in fact, of the ten films I've shot, six of them have been funded by studios," insists the friendly and talkative director, pointing out that supposedly independent *Dazed and Confused* was actually a studio film and that he has done other sponsored films, such as *The Newton Boys*. "Some of those are much smaller films, [which are] funded by a studio but released through their smaller branch. It's sort of the only game in town unless you're really, really off the chart. There really isn't even money out there, so we're sort of all at the same trough. It's just which end of the trough?"

But studio money was there for Linklater's latest project, *School of Rock*. The film is a music-filled comedy that tells the tale of rocker Dewey Finn (Jack Black), who finds himself teaching as a substitute at an uptight private grade school to try and make ends meet after being fired from his band. Naturally, wild hijinx ensue as Dewey teaches the kids about rock n' roll while trying to form them into a musical supergroup that will help him win a battle of the bands and regain his fame.

While the premise sounds like a comfortable fit for Jack Black's particular style and talents, this kind of comedy seems like strange ground for the man who created the innovative *Waking Life*, which featured animation created from filmed scenes (rotoscoping) and a slow, philosophical plot.

"I guess it's all a timing thing," Linklater admits. "Scott Rudin, the producer, had sent me things over the years and a lot of them turned out to be pretty good movies, but I just didn't feel the call. I know me doing [*School of Rock*] probably looks weird on the surface, but I really felt the first script I read was a little goofy, [and] I liked Jack's character. I thought, 'there's something there.' I felt sort of challenged."

Linklater also identified with the script on a more personal level. "I have a ten-year-old daughter, so I kind of felt

tuned in to these kids," he explains. "I thought, in a way, I could bring something to it."

Linklater says not being fully in control of the script for *School of Rock* was different for him, but not necessarily a bad thing. "People have been telling me to do that for years," he justifies. "I remember [Traffic director Steve] Soderberg telling me, 'Just do what I did on *Out of Sight*: find a project that you can get involved with that's kind of set to go, but something you like.' That's good advice, but it took me years to actually do it."

Orange County screenwriter Mike White scripted *School of Rock* and also co-starred in the film. As such, it seemed as though Linklater was nursing someone else's baby, but he managed to leave his mark even though the project was already at a fairly tender age by the time he signed on.

"I know we all have labels: people put you in a certain category. I'm in this indie film category, but in fact, of the ten films I've shot, six of them have been funded by studios."

RICHARD LINKLATER

"Not taking anything away from Mike White's script, but I came aboard pretty early on and we worked together on it a lot. He's a great collaborator, but it changed a lot. There were a lot of things early on that I just kind of couldn't do, that he was totally cool for," explains Linklater. "It could have been any number of kinds of movies or different tones. That's how most movies are. I mean, I wouldn't have done the movie if it was like, 'Here's a script that's perfect. Shoot it.' That's what they derisively refer to as a 'shooter' in the industry, someone who knows where to put the camera and can kind of work with actors and administrate a production. That's kind of boring. I don't consider myself that."

Still, Linklater admits that he was worried about working with a studio on a bigger project like this and feared that the studio wouldn't trust him to do with the film what he thought was necessary to make it work. However, his instincts paid off and the experience turned out to be a positive one. "It was an interesting time for me, because I did it at a high point," he explains.

"So it's a good time to do something like that, not from a low point. Don't do it like you're chasing a hit. That's a weak position to be in. I never felt that pressure and I don't today. If *School of Rock* doesn't do very well, that's fine. I'm better off having done it. I had a good experience, so, cool."

School of Rock

"If *School of Rock* doesn't do very well, that's fine. I'm better off having done it."

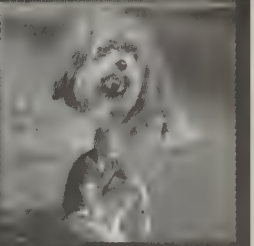
RICHARD LINKLATER

"I have a ten-year-old daughter, so I kind of felt tuned in to these kids."

RICHARD LINKLATER

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PATRICK
SUNDERLAND

A&E
Commentary

It was at one of those faux-Irish pubs in the deep southside on a Monday night. I had come with a brood of flatmates to watch the Zito vs Martinez matchup in what was promised to be the greatest pitching duel in the leadup to the World Series. It was just as our waitress, donning the prescribed Budweiser tank top, served us our sale-priced Bud that the man behind the bar switched every television in the building over to a rotisserie Monday Night Football game, sponsored, of course, by the meek-tasting king of beers.

Immediately there was uproar from several rabid sections of the bar. "Are you insane?" we asked the barman. "Nobody cares about this meaningless crap right now! Do you want a lynch mob after your remote?"

"Sorry boys. Bud's our sponsor. We have to show football or else they might take our promos away," he said while squirming and squealing like a ferret beneath his Budweiser T-shirt. "Fine, have it your way, you corporate leech! I'll never drink an ounce of this stale piss-water again," I boasted.

Afterwards, we called in to one of those big-budget radio shows to vent the story of our youthful discontent. They, similarly pumping away on the lifeblood of commercial funding, refused to air our grievance due to a conflict of interest with their sponsors. Indeed, it seems we live in a frenzy of product placement; however, I knew there was at least one safe haven from

the onslaught of corporate control.

After all, Mondays are arguably the best night of live radio in the city. Fuck whatever top nine-and-a-half songs at 9:30 are playing on big-business FM, you'll get much more of a kick throwing on your headphones and cranking it to CJSR's 88.5 FM.

There you'll hear Mick Sleeper spin from his vast library of dub reggae tunes on The Soul Shakedown Party, which—like most programs on the station—is absolutely mint because alternative music and opinion are in the forefront. There you can tune into good drum and bass beats, jazz, blues, hip hop, punk, metal, R&B, house, or world music from an authentic DJ who knows good music rather than some broadcasting-school flunky with an absurd seismic voice.

At the epicenter of the U of A's spirit is our independent media. Student radio serves to broadcast alternative media to the campus and similarly air the distinct U of A culture to the city beyond.

CJSR allows their voices free-reign over 88.5's airwaves and that is why they strike a cord in cool. All the DJ's at the station are volunteers who dig up tunes that you might never hear, chiefly because they like good music and strive to promote a scene in our city counter to the bland mainstream nightmare of Paul Vickers' club empire. Edmonton boasts some pretty

hip musical undercurrents and, without argument, CJSR has become the main pulse in promoting various tastes other than the tart flavor offered by the Global media conglomerate or other highly-leveraged radio alliances, commonly referred to as "the man."

It would appear that this campus is sometimes apathetic, apolitical and hesitant to take united action against such issues as tuition hikes. However, the fabric of our school is one that maintains a culture via our numerous student groups, shows, exhibitions, and speakers on campus. At the epicenter of the U of A's spirit is our independent media. Student radio serves to broadcast alternative media to the campus and similarly air the distinct U of A culture to the city beyond.

Smirnoff Ice and all its financial backing wooed CJSR over the summer with a bunch of money in order to have their own bland Power-92-esque show on student airwaves. Daryl Richel, program manager at the station, balked at the suitor and maintained FM 88's autonomy. It is truly an unheard of and commendable move in these weird times, but CJSR can't run on nothing.

The station recently wrapped up their annual Fundrive, which raises money to keep the station rocking without the greedy hands of sponsorship. The majority of their budget comes from listener donations, and even though the drive is over you can always still donate.

Think about doing your part in sticking it to the man. Otherwise we can all just plug into the mainstream like a bunch of dazed rabbits, quivering and staring and shitting on each other while hopping back and forth in our cages. A few bucks isn't a bad price to avoid that shittrain.



Mary J Blige

Love and Life
Geffen Records
www.mjblige.com

CHRIS O'LEARY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For the first time since 1994's *My Life*, Mary J Blige teams up with entertainment mogul/media whore Sean P-Diddy Combs, who takes the co-production reins for her latest release *Love and Life*. In the past, the Blige and

Puffy combination made for her best overall albums, but a lot has changed since then.

Puffy's popularity as a producer peaked in '98, and has been on the downward spin ever since. In the meantime, Mary J discovered just how much money you can make with a club hit with her last album, *No More Drama*. So if you've got *Love and Life* in your hands and you think you're getting another *My Life* or *What's the 411*, you'll be sorely disappointed. There is little on this album that features the heart-felt messages of her previous work.

What you do get with *Love and Life* is a mix of club-happy tracks that manages to find enough time to tease you with hints of the Mary of old. Get the CD if you're a big Mary J fan, but avoid any of the tracks featuring gratuitous collaborations that reek of Puffy, and *Love and Life* will be worth a few listens.



DAVID MORGAN

GOB! Punks ran rampant on campus Tuesday night for MTV's Campus Invasion.

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New dark comedy explores twisted revenge

Workshop West Theatre opens its 25th season with a bleak play about innocence, beauty, revenge, hope and junkyard workers

17 Dogs

Starring Jeff Haslam, Richard Gishler, Kevin Kruchkywich, Duval Lang and Frederick Zbryski
Directed by Ron Jenkins
Kaasa Theatre
10 October–19 October

MEI LUDWIG
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Whether it's on the giving or the receiving end, everyone has had some kind of experience with revenge at one point in their lives. But not many have ever plotted their gruesomely methodical revenge for 44 years like the lead character in Ron Chambers' new black comedy, *17 Dogs*.

Cal is a junkyard owner in his sixties that, perhaps foolishly, made a contract to start up a company with his best friend, Lawson, 44 years prior to the beginning of the play. The contract involved inheritance money from Cal's

father, which Lawson stole and ran off with. Unable to find his former business partner, Cal bides his time alone in an isolated junkyard on the edge of nowhere. The years pass, the bitterness sets in, the revenge builds up, and finally Cal invests in another contract with a quirky character named Ed, who pledges to locate Lawson for Cal.

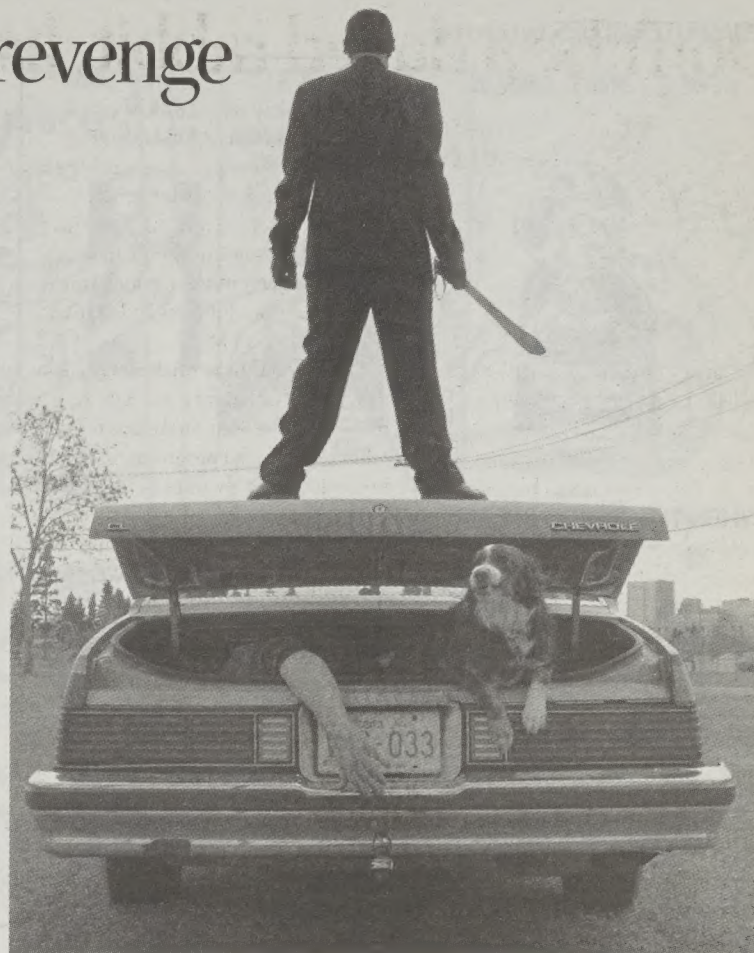
Director of *17 Dogs*, Ron Jenkins describes the work as one of "trust, innocence, beauty, revenge and hope." The play is set over a space of two days and begins when Ed finds Lawson and brings him to the brooding revenge-crazed character Cal. What follows is a well-written exercise in style and dark humour that Ron Chambers pulls off with unique flair.

Originally previewed during Workshop West's Springboards New Plays Festival where the play was read to an audience, but not acted out—director Ron Jenkins indicated his interest in the play and brought it to

the workshop so that Chambers could get an idea of what it sounded like and get some audience reactions. The play was received positively and Chambers opted to work on the play over the summer to refine it for its premiere this fall. Now, *17 Dogs* has the honour of launching Workshop West Theatre's 25th season.

"The audience had a lot of fun with it," says Jenkins, "because believe it or not, that's what it is: a comedy." Jenkins believes that the audience will leave the theatre "reflecting on the moral message—the hope for humanity." The final product, he explains, is a dark comedy with a deeper message that will truly make people think.

Whether it's stealing your best friend's husband, microwaving your roommate's entire CD collection, or washing your ex's entire wardrobe in bleach, we've all been a part of revenge at some point. *17 Dogs* takes a closer look at why.



MxPx
Before Everything & After
A&M Records
www.mxp.com

MEI LUDWIG
Arts & Entertainment Writer

MxPx has created the self-proclaimed "most highly anticipated album of their career." With fourteen unimaginative and unoriginal sappy songs (as expected from these pop-punkers), the crowning disappointment of the disc is the lame enhancement. You can get MxPx stuff for your computer, or go to their website, which lacks the majority of the promised "secrets behind the album."

You might be tempted to accuse the band of being hypocrites, with the curious contradiction this album spawns. In "Play It Loud," the lyrics remind listeners (in true punk rock fashion) to "be true to yourself/ stop trying to be just like someone else."

Unfortunately, the influences behind this album stand out so clearly it becomes apparent that MxPx don't follow their own advice. Snippets of Ramones-influenced lyrics ("Well Adjusted"), popular pop-punk riffs (in the manner of many Much Music punk stars), and Blink-182/Weezer dress styles all make a pre-dominant appearance on the disc.

If you rearrange the order of the songs, you'd get something similar in schematics to the Ataris' *End is Forever*. (Ironically enough, the Ataris' Kris Roe shows up as a guest on the track "Brokenhearted.") All in all, you might be better off listening to all the bands MxPx is impersonating instead of this album.



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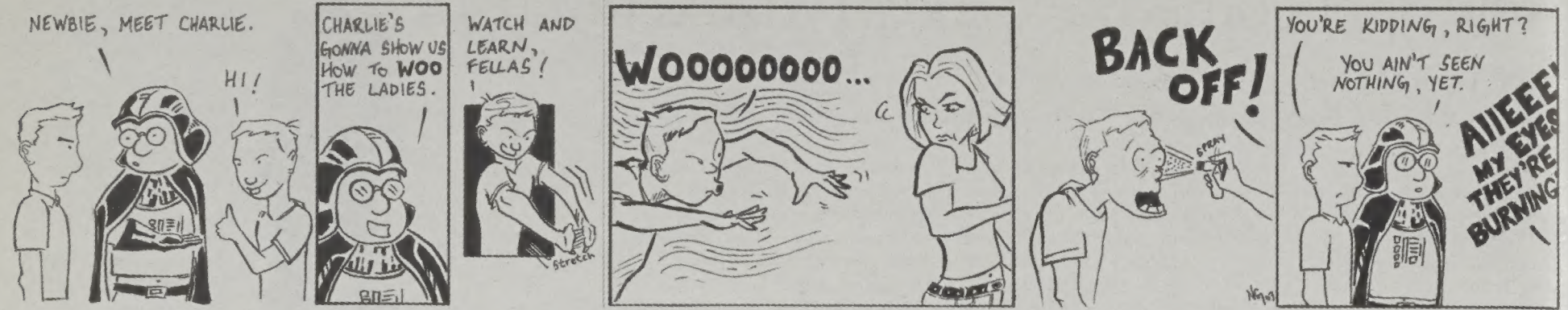


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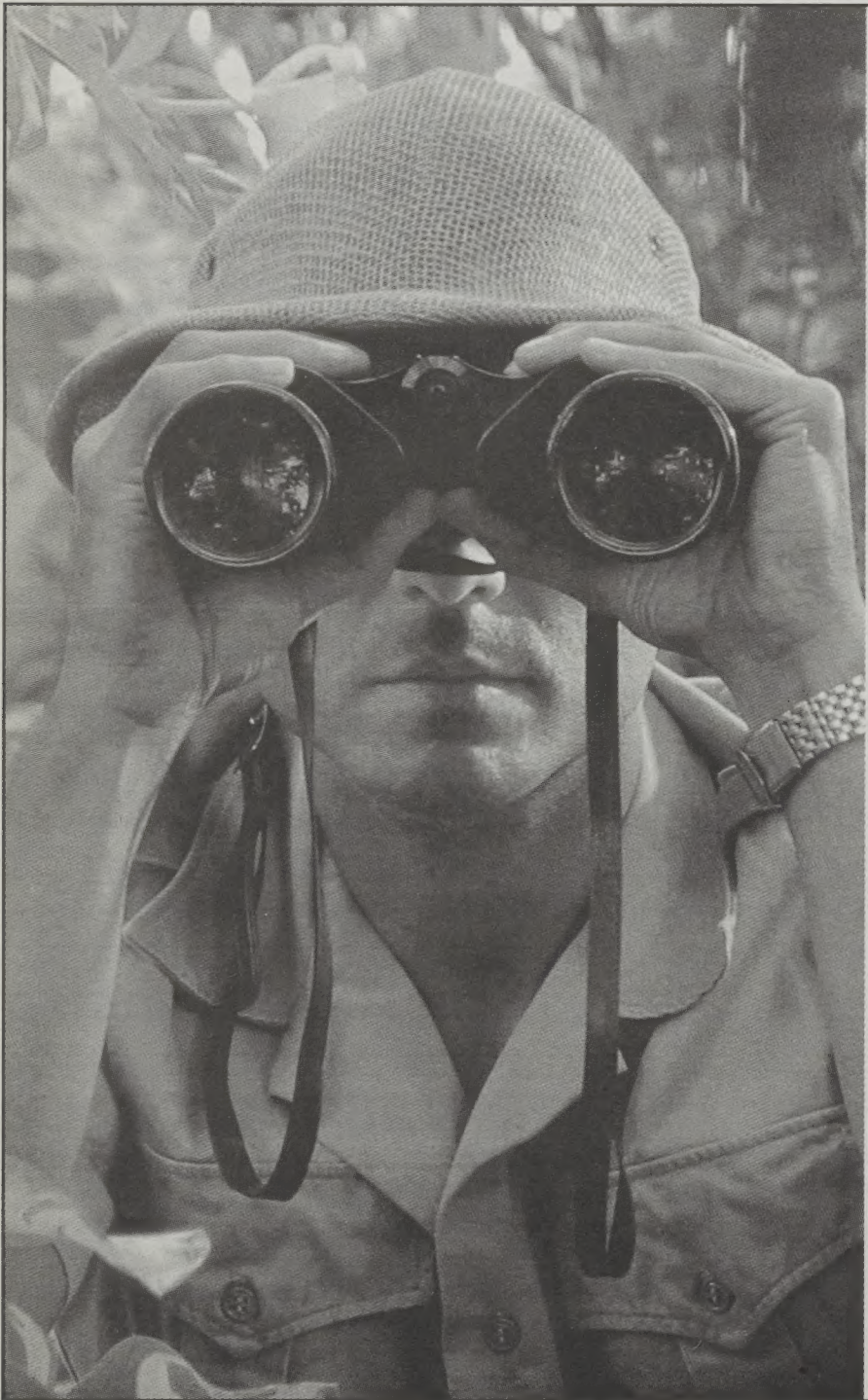
COMPUTER BLUES by Kevin Ng



WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS by Eric Uhlich



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ring ring

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ILLUSTRATED CAMPUS CRIME BEAT by Mike Winters

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT Illustrated

AT ABOUT 8:45PM ON 3 OCTOBER, CONSTABLES ON PATROL CAME ACROSS A SEMI-CONSCIOUS MAN LYING BLEEDING ON THE GROUND NEAR THE BUTTERDOME.

A FEMALE WITNESS CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN ASSAULTED, AND POINTED TO A GROUP OF TWO MALES AND A FEMALE THAT WERE HEADED WEST.

OFFICERS CONFRONTED THE GROUP AND AFTER THE MESS WAS SORTED OUT, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE FIGHT WAS CONSENSUAL.

NEITHER WANTED TO PRESS CHARGES, AND THE VICTIM WAS EXTREMELY INTOXICATED.

MIKE WINTERS: PROFESSIONAL NHL SCOUT by Mike "Comrie" Winters

MIKE WINTERS: PROFESSIONAL NHL SCOUT

WELL I WATCHED LAST WEEK'S GAME AGAINST THE FLAMES AND MADE SOME OBSERVATIONS...

WITH GUYS NAMED MONTADOR, COMMODORE AND LEOPOLD, CALGARY'S DEFENCE IS APPARENTLY THE PROGENY OF SOME SORT OF UNHOLY ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE HAPSBURG AND SPANISH MONARCHIES. I SUGGEST WE SEND SCOUTS TO MORAVIA...

I'VE ALSO NOTICED THAT MARC-ANDRE BERGERON'S HEAD SEEMS TOO BIG FOR HIS BODY. WE'LL HAVE TO CORRECT THIS.

LET'S SEE, WHAT ELSE? OH YEAH, DON'T BUY ANY BEER FROM CONCESSIONS, IT'S A TOTAL RIPOFF

YOU'RE FIRED.

KEVIN LOWE

BLACKOUT by C&J

based on a true story

MIDTERM TODAY

20% OF FINAL MARK

HERE'S AN EXAM PAPER. YOU HAVE 45 MINUTES LEFT.

SHUT UP

... I WAS LIKE, "SHUT UP!"

YOU SAID THAT??

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TOLD HIM TO SHUT UP!

THE ANECDOTE WAS SO FUNNY, IT WAS WORTH FAILING THE TEST.

THREE MONTHS LATER...

HGF KMN SHUT UP! SNNNNNN ... SPARE SOME CHANGE? BMBNGFPLUG ... I SAID SHUT UP! FRYNDFSM

Flunked out of School Please help

RANCID WIT by Dave Leriger

RANCID WIT

Episode 11.25: "Defensive Nintendo"

8-BIT SPACE!

8-BIT GOLF!

8-BIT RACING!

8-BIT BOXING!

FUCK OFF! CAMECUBE IS WAY BETTER THAN YOU ARE, ASSHEAD!

"8-bit graphics were obviously the pinnacle of human civilization, you big ugly buttshank"

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please call
Information Services at 492-4212

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11539 75 Ave, near U of A, clean one-bedroom basement suite. Share washer/dryer/utilities, \$450/month. 963-6310 or 990-7590.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Medicine in Europe. Visit www.medical-school.ca or email canadian-info@medical-school.ca

The Momentum Arts cafe is a dynamic melange of up-and-coming visual and performing artists. It includes traditional and modern art forms from around the world. FREE ADMISSION! Education North, Rm 2-115. Sun, 12 Oct at 8:15pm.

EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

PART-TIME Research Assistant wanted. Familiarity with Microsoft Excel. Dr F-M Eggert. feggert@ualberta.ca

Opportunity is ringing! Someone gets paid

for services we use everyday, why not you? Unlimited earning potential, work your own hours, minimum investment. Call Neva @ 662-4503.

SUBmart, the Students' Union convenience store, is looking for part-time help. Currently one shift is available on Mondays from 7am to 1pm. If interested, please deliver resumé in person to SUBmart (main floor SUB), Attention: Suzie Murray

Quizno's Scona Market is currently seeking trustworthy reliable employee. Please fax resume to 432-4762 or call 432-4761 Attention Nick or Sean.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

It's Good For You! Be a Big Brother or Big Sister. It's easy. Share a little time with a young person in Edmonton, Parkland, Strathcona. Take a walk, watch a movie, bake a cake. You can feel like a kid again! Call Big Brothers Big Sisters today. 424-8181.

Volunteers wanted to teach piano to children in inner city schools with Heart of the City Piano Program. Experience an asset but not required. For info phone Annika 993-803

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ASTRONO WATCH

Keeping an eye on the sky...

Whew. What a week. I'm busy as hell, and still recovering from a most traumatic weekend. I tell ya, saving a girl from being raped, dodging kicks to my head, and almost being car-jacked sure takes a lot out of a girl. On the upside though, I got to fill out my first witness statement. Whoo-haaa!

Well, on to some astrono-news... China is making headlines for the second week in a row. Apparently they are mere weeks away from launching their first manned mission, Shenzhou 5. This historic first flight will likely last as long as the first-ever space flight, 90 minutes, and involves just one orbit around the planet. China is also gearing up for its first lunar mission. To be launched within the next three years, the spacecraft Chang'e will orbit the moon for a year gathering data on the geology and environmental resources of the moon.

Speaking of the moon, there's a Full

Hunter's Moon tonight. This means the moon will rise only 30 minutes later tomorrow, instead of the usual 50 minutes later. CELEBRATE!

Now, I must address my first fan mail, which was in the Gateway on Tuesday. Now, I know it is confusing, but I'm an astronomer, NOT an astrologer. This means I am not certified to give advice based on pseudo-scientific mumbo-jumbo crap. But my heart says that you really do need the guidance, so you know what, I'll give it a shot. Since this is fall, and everyone has caught the romantic bug, I'll say go for the romance. It is, after all, what makes the world go 'round. And forget about school, that's what I've done...

No, silly. It's **not astrology**, it's **astronomy**. **AstronoWatch** is a weekly feature usually published every Tuesday. Our resident astronomer, **Kati Kovacs**, sets the stage for the cosmos, and invites you up to the Campus Observatory every Thursday evening at 8pm. Just take the elevator in the Physics Building up to the sixth floor, and then the stairs up to the seventh floor. Walk out onto the roof and check out the view with the University's telescopes.

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CENTRAL

10176 - 109 St.
426-2355

12302 Stony Plain Rd.
488-6622

Edmonton City Centre
10200 - 102 Ave.
421-4540

NORTH

Costco North
993-5188

12924 - 97 St.
473-2355

EAST

Capilano Mall
(outside entrance by Safeway)
450-6880

6558-28 Ave.
440-2812

6839 - 83 St. (Argyll Rd.)
465-5271

SOUTH

6031 - 103 St.
438-2355

9128 - 51 Ave.
438-5114

South Edmonton Common
485-9812

South Edmonton Common
(inside Superstore)
701-3355

Southgate Centre
434-5620

Costco South
909-4544

9261 - 34 Ave.
702-6001

WEST

West Edmonton Mall Phase II
(by skating rink)
413-9855

West Edmonton Mall Phase III
(by London Drugs)
443-3022

10013 - 170 St.
408-8917

10608 - 170 St.
489-2255

Costco West
907-0330

LEUDC

6108 - 50 St.
986-0986

SHERWOOD PARK

993 Fir St.
417-2355

ST. ALBERT

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419-2355

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